COLONIAL REPORTS.—ANNUAL.

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No. 48.

MALTA.

ANNUAL REPORTS FOR 1890 AND 1891.

(For Report for 1889, *see* Colonial Report No. 105, Old Series.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
August 1892.

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ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
12	Turks and Caicos Islands	1890
13	Gibraltar	"
14	Zululand	"
15	Sierra Leone	"
16	Barbados	"
17	Falkland Islands	"
18	Labuan	"
19	British Honduras	"
20	Basutoland	1890–91
21	Trinidad and Tobago	1890
22	Leeward Islands	"
23	Grenada	"
24	Straits Settlements	"
25	British Guiana	"
26	St. Helena	"
27	Mauritius	"
28	Gambia	"
29	Hong Kong	"
30	Ceylon	1889
31	Lagos	"
32	Lagos	1890
33	Ceylon	"
34	Newfoundland	"
35	Jamaica	1889–91
36	Victoria	1890
37	British New Guinea	1890–91
38	St. Vincent	1891
39	Bermuda	"
40	Seychelles and Rodrigues	1889 and 1890
41	Gambia	1891
42	Barbados	"
43	Turks and Caicos Islands	"
44	Bahamas	"
45	Fiji	"
46	Seychelles	"
47	British Bechuanaland	1891–92

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand	Forests.

No. 48.

MALTA.

REPORT for 1890.

[For Report for 1889, *see* Colonial Report, No. 105, Old Series.]

Sir H. A. SMYTH to LORD KNUTSFORD.

MY LORD, Palace, Valletta, July 16, 1891.

I HAVE the honour to transmit the Malta Blue Book for the year 1890, together with the Report thereon by the Chief Secretary to Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. A. SMYTH,
Governor.

The Right Hon.
Lord Knutsford, G.C.M.G.,
&c. &c. &c.

SIR, Chief Secretary's Office, Valletta, July 8, 1891.

I HAVE the honour to submit the following report on the Malta Blue Book for the year 1890 :—

Revenue.

—	Customs.	Other Receipts.	Total.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1887 - - -	145,786 14 0	73,398 6 5	219,185 0 5
1888 - - -	156,600 0 5	83,545 13 1½	240,145 13 6½
1889 - - -	161,871 5 0	89,304 9 6	251,175 14 6
	464,257 19 5	246,248 9 0½	710,506 8 5½
Average of the three years - -	154,752 18 1⅔	82,082 16 3½	236,835 9 5⅚
Revenue in 1890 -	160,162 5 8	101,091 19 10¼	261,254 5 6¼
Increase in 1890 -	5,409 12 6⅓	19,009 3 6 1/12	24,418 16 0 5/12

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The following table compares the actual revenue for 1890 with that of 1889 :—

——	Customs.	Other Receipts.	Total.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1889 - - -	161,871 5 0	89,304 9 6	251,175 14 6
1890 - - -	160,162 5 8	101,091 19 10¼	261,254 5 6¼
Increase -	——	11,787 10 4¼	10,078 11 0¼
Decrease -	1,708 19 4	——	——

The following table compares the revenue in 1890 with the revenue as estimated :—

Heads of Revenue.	Estimate.	Actual Revenue.	Excess.	Decrease.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Customs - - - - -	150,178 0 0	160,162 5 8	9,984 5 8	—
Quarantine dues - - -	—	704 13 7	704 13 7	—
Land revenue - - - -	15,020 0 0	14,819 2 8½	—	200 17 3½
Rents, exclusive of land - -	23,350 0 0	24,567 1 2½	1,217 1 2½	—
Licenses - - - - - -	4,000 0 0	4,153 14 11	153 14 11	—
Postage - - - - - -	9,042 0 0	10,452 1 2	1,410 1 2	—
Fines, fees of courts and forfeitures	5,662 0 0	6,927 4 2½	1,265 4 2½	—
Fees of office - - - -	2,513 0 0	4,421 18 11	1,908 18 11	—
Reimbursements in aid of expenses -	3,424 0 0	4,454 17 2½	1,030 17 2½	—
Miscellaneous receipts - - -	2,218 0 0	2,845 3 0½	627 3 0½	—
Interest - - - - - -	20,765 0 0	19,479 0 9½	—	1,285 19 2½
Water dues - - - - -	3,000 0 0	4,232 9 9½	1,232 9 9½	—
Special receipts - - - -	3,800 0 0	4,034 12 3½	234 12 3½	—
Total - - -	242,972 0 0	261,254 5 6½	19,769 2 0½	1,486 16 6
	—	—	1,486 16 6	—
Actual increase - -	—	—	18,282 5 6½	—

The following table compares the revenue received in 1890 with that received in 1889:—

Heads of Revenue.	Amount collected in 1889.	Amount collected in 1890.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Customs	161,871 5 0	160,162 5 8	—	1,708 19 4
Quarantine dues	440 19 3	704 13 7	263 14 4	—
Land revenue	15,079 15 7½	14,819 2 8½	—	260 12 11
Rent, exclusive of land	23,656 8 9½	24,567 1 2½	910 12 5	—
Licenses	5,075 14 6	4,153 14 11	—	921 19 7
Postage	9,850 14 4	10,450 1 2	601 6 10	—
Fines, forfeitures, and fees of court	5,918 7 10½	6,927 4 2½	1,008 16 3½	—
Fees of office	3,403 15 3	4,421 18 11	1,018 3 8	—
Reimbursements in aid of expenses	4,397 1 1½	4,454 17 2½	57 16 1	—
Miscellaneous receipts	2,118 17 4½	2,845 3 0½	726 5 7½	—
Interest	11,388 12 1	19,479 0 9½	8,090 8 8½	—
Water dues	4,036 4 5½	4,232 9 9½	196 5 4½	—
Special receipts	3,937 8 9	4,034 12 3½	96 13 6½	—
Total	251,175 14 6	261,254 5 6½	12,970 2 10½	2,891 11 1
	—	—	2,891 11 10	—
Actual increase	—	—	10,078 11 0½	—

Expenditure.

	Salaries and Allowances.	Other Expenditure.	Total.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1887	88,625 4 1	145,200 3 10½	233,825 7 11½
1888	90,477 1 8	121,836 0 3½	212,313 1 11½
1889	93,909 15 3	135,793 14 7	229,703 9 10
	273,012 1 0	402,829 18 9	675,841 19 9
Average	91,004 0 4	134,276 12 11	225,280 13 3
1890	97,476 7 11	169,424 2 2½	266,900 10 1½
Increase	6,472 7 7	35,147 9 3½	41,619 16 10½

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The following table compares the actual expenditure in 1890 with the estimate of expenditure:—

	Estimate.	Actual Expenditure.	Excess.	Saving.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Establishments	103,677 3 1½	97,476 7 11	—	6,200 15 2½
Exclusive of establishments	187,339 5 7	169,424 2 2½	—	17,915 3 4½
Total	291,016 8 8½	266,900 10 1½	—	24,115 18 7

The following is a comparison of the expenditure for 1890 with the expenditure for 1889:—

Head of Expenditure.	Expenditure in 1889.	Expenditure in 1890.	Increase.	Decrease.
Establishments.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Civil	12,047 4 7	11,534 9 3	—	512 15 4
Revenue	8,657 17 7	8,920 18 5	261 0 10	—
Legislative	200 0 0	200 0 0	—	—
Judicial	9,786 8 8	9,917 17 2	131 8 6	—
Police	21,262 16 9	24,487 18 11	3,225 2 2	—
Prisons	1,391 14 10	1,398 18 8	7 3 10	—
Ecclesiastical	676 15 0	676 15 0	—	—
Educational	15,790 13 7	15,973 11 6	182 17 11	—
Charitable	10,269 8 10	10,372 11 9	103 2 11	—
Clerical establishment	11,262 7 8	11,435 9 11	173 2 3	—
Messengers' do.	2,412 7 9	2,457 17 4	45 9 7	—
Crown Agents	150 0 0	150 0 0	—	—
Total	93,909 15 3	97,476 7 11	4,079 8 0	512 15 4
Exclusive of Establishments.				
Civil	580 17 2	669 3 2	88 6 0	—
Revenue	7,142 15 5	7,638 18 6	496 3 1	—
Legislative	903 11 1	334 14 7	—	568 16 6
Judicial	2,667 10 11	2,744 9 2	76 18 3	—
Police	1,586 12 1	2,813 17 11	1,227 5 10	—
Prisons	1,686 3 7	1,747 9 4	61 5 9	—
Ecclesiastical	645 10 0	594 7 2	—	51 2 10
Educational	1,805 6 0	1,622 16 8	—	182 9 4
Charitable	23,980 10 6	25,245 4 9	1,264 14 3	—
Pensions	13,725 6 9½	13,556 10 5½	—	168 16 4
Works, buildings, roads, streets, &c.	59,145 9 8½	76,120 13 5	16,975 3 8½	—
Rent	1,264 13 10	1,420 4 7	155 10 9	—
Interest	3,064 17 7	13,700 10 2	10,635 12 7	—

Head of Expenditure.	Expenditure in 1889.	Expenditure in 1890.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Burthen on property - - -	1,735 8 6	1,751 6 0	15 17 6	—
Drawbacks, &c. - - - -	3,440 14 2	3,827 3 2	386 9 0	—
Stationery - - - -	972 1 0	1,041 4 10	69 3 10	—
Transport - - - -	2,120 19 1	2,297 16 0	176 16 11	—
Military contributions - - -	5,000 0 0	5,000 0 0	—	—
Miscellaneous services - -	4,325 7 2	7,297 12 4	2,972 5 2	—
Total - - -	135,793 14 7	169,424 2 2½	34,601 12 7½	971 5 0
Grand Total - -	229,703 9 10	266,900 10 1½	38,681 0 7½	1,484 0 4

Legislation.

The following Ordinances were passed by the Council of Government, and promulgated during the year 1890:—

No. I.

To provide for the better protection of the owners of coal stored, or afloat in the harbours.

No. II.

To amend the Police Laws.

No. III.

To permit under certain conditions the manufacture of spirits in these islands.

Civil Establishment.

The following were the most important changes in offices during the year 1890:—

His Excellency Sir Henry Augustus Smyth, K.C.M.G., assumed the administration of the Government of Malta, in the place of the late Sir H. D'O. Torrens, K.C.B.

Mr. Francesco Vella, the Collector of Customs, has been appointed to act as Superintendent of the Ports, vice Captain La Primandaye, pending a proposal for the amalgamation of those two offices.

Mr. Giovanni Missud, LL.D., late Assistant Superintendent of Police, has been transferred to one of the situations of Syndics, rendered vacant by the demise of Dr. P. Curmi.

Captain C. La Primandaye, R.N., and Dr. S. Magri have been appointed respectively Superintendent and senior Assistant Superintendent of Police.

Mr. G. Caruana Scicluna, M.D., has been promoted to the situation of Sanitary Inspector, in the place of Dr. P. P. Agius, deceased; and Mr. T. S. Zammit, M.D., has been appointed Analytical Chemist, instead of Dr. Caruana Scicluna.

Mr. Francesco Debono, M.D., has been appointed Professor of Natural History and Forensic Medicine, vice the late Dr. Gavino Gulia.

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Population.

The population of these islands on the 31st December was reported to be as follows :—

	Males.	Females.	Total.	Remarks.
Malta - - -	72,533	73,478	146,011	Not including the Queen's troops and their families.
Gozo - - -	9,553	10,098	19,651	
Total - -	82,086	83,576	165,662	

Savings Bank.

The amount of deposits in the savings bank was as follows :—

	1890.	Depositors.	1889.	Depositors.
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.	
In Malta - -	422,759 8 0½	5,116	392,685 9 2¾	4,776
In Gozo - -	38,406 15 3	578	35,193 8 5	541
Total -	461,166 3 3½	5,694	427,878 17 7¾	5,317
Interest accrued due during 1890 credited to capital -	6,181 8 8	—	—	—
Grand Total -	467,347 11 11½	—	—	—

Savings Bank.—Profit and Loss Account.

Dr.	£ s. d.	Cr.	£ s. d.
Establishment expenses :—		By Depositors' account :—	
To Salaries for 1890 - -	324 0 9	„ Recovered interest - -	68 0 3
„ Sundry office expenses -	161 17 1½	„ Books account - - -	9 15 3
„ Rent account - - -	108 0 0	„ Dividends from Consols -	10,240 8 6
„ Interest paid and due for 1890 - - - - -	6,459 6 4	„ Interest from Monte -	1,624 10 0
	7,053 4 2½		
Balance Profit - - -	4,889 9 9½		
	11,942 14 0		11,942 14 0

Balance Sheet of the Savings Bank on 31st December 1890.

Dr.	£	s.	d.	Cr.	£	s.	d.
To Treasury banking account	12,203	0	9	By Depositors' account	467,347	11	11½
„ Monte di Pietà	54,150	0	0	„ Malta Branch (Gozo) account	427	4	1
„ Cash account	427	4	1	„ Profit and loss	4,889	9	9½
„ Investments account	402,486	16	11				
„ Gozo Branch (Malta) account current	427	4	1				
	472,664	5	10		472,664	5	10

Balance Sheet of the Monte di Pietà on 31st December 1890.

Dr.	£	s.	d.	Cr.	£	s.	d.
To Landed property	61,628	12	2	By Stock account	41,628	12	2
„ Cash	157	1	10½	„ Loans	7,569	2	9
„ Pawning transactions	39,584	14	7½	„ Savings bank	54,150	0	0
„ Treasury banking account	4,749	13	7½	„ Surplus on sales of pawns	1,972	16	5
„ Gozo Branch (Malta) account current	76	16	4	„ Malta Branch (Gozo) account	76	16	4
				„ Profit and loss	799	11	0½
	106,196	18	8½		106,196	18	8½

Education.

The following is a list of the Government educational establishments:—

	No. of Scholars.	
	1890.	1889.
The University	76	94
The Lyceum	450	445
Two Secondary Schools	167	156
Seventy-six Primary Schools	10,244	9,058
Ten Infant Schools	982	939
Total	11,919	10,692

The expenditure of the educational establishments amounted to 18,163*l.* 4*s.* 9½*d.*, and the fees paid by the scholars for attendance in the University and Lyceum to 326*l.* 16*s.* 8*d.*

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Imports and Exports.

	£		£	
The following is the value of cargoes imported and actually landed at this port -	773,573	in 1890, against	845,177	in 1889.
Value of cargoes which merely touched at this port and were re-exported in the same vessels - -	22,900,748	against	23,441,935	„
	23,679,321		24,287,112	

viz.:—

From the U. Kingdom -	134,148	against	144,275	in 1889.
From the British Colonies	763,230	„	1,190,287	„
From H.M.'s ships in port	900	„	511	„
From foreign countries -	22,781,043	„	22,952,039	„
	23,679,321		24,287,112	„

showing a decrease of 607,791*l.*

	£		£	
The value of exports from portions of cargoes which were actually landed at this port - -	37,482	in 1890, against	56,316	in 1889.
Value of exports of whole cargoes which merely touched at this port and proceeded in the same vessels -	22,106,585	against	23,570,766	„
	22,144,067		23,627,082	

viz.:—

To the United Kingdom	3,981,885	against	4,750,352	in 1889.
„ British Colonies -	8,707,077	„	9,054,414	„
„ H.M.'s ships -	3,483	„	2,847	„
„ foreign countries -	9,451,622	„	9,819,469	„
	22,144,067		23,627,082	

showing a decrease of 1,483,015*l.*

Shipping.

The shipping movements in the port during the last three years are as follows:—

Year.	Steamers.		Sailing Vessels.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
1887	2,658	3,310,039	1,046	93,987
1888	4,336	5,143,248	1,557	131,788
1889	4,298	5,099,734	1,322	108,720
	11,492	13,553,021	3,925	334,445
Average	3,831	4,517,674	1,308	111,482
1890	3,863	4,495,864	1,130	78,604
Increase	32	—	—	—
Decrease	—	21,810	178	32,878

The following table compares the actual arrivals in 1890 with those in 1889:—

Year.	Steamers.		Sailing Vessels.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
1889	4,298	5,099,734	1,322	108,720
1890	3,863	4,495,864	1,130	78,604
Decrease	435	603,870	192	30,116

Criminal Statistics.

The following is a statement of offences punishable under local laws, showing the number of accusations and of persons brought before the courts by the police in 1890:—

Offences.	No. of Cases.	No. of Persons.	Acquitted.	Condemned.
Crimes against public tranquillity	83	117	9	108
„ affecting public credit	8	10	6	4
„ „ the good order of families	45	55	6	49
„ against the person	896	1,153	117	1,036
„ „ property	296	395	69	326
Contempt of Court	4	4	—	4
CONTRAVENTIONS.				
Affecting public order	2,119	3,700	257	3,343
Against the person	12	16	2	14
„ property	79	136	26	110

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Offences.	No. of Cases.	No. of Persons.	Acquitted.	Condemned.
OTHER CONTRAVENTIONS.				
Under special Ordinances - - -	1,122	1,598	46	1,777
POLICE LAWS.				
Contraventions - - - - -	3,710	6,282	194	5,963
Totals - -	8,374	13,466	732	12,734

viz. :—

Maltese - - - - -	13,318
Other British Subjects - -	109
Foreigners - - -	39
	13,466

The number of persons committed to prison in 1890 was as follows :—

Men - - - - -	4,663
Women - - - - -	599
Boys - - - - -	1,215
Girls - - - - -	32
	6,509

GENERAL REMARKS.

Revenue.

The public revenue of the Colony for the year 1890 amounted to 261,254*l.* 5*s.* 6¼*d.*, showing a nett increase of 10,078*l.* 11*s.* 0¼*d.* as compared with the previous year's revenue, and of 18,282*l.* 5*s.* 6¼*d.*, as compared with the estimated revenue.

With the exception of the revenue derived from Customs, Land Revenue, and Licences, there has been a general increase in the revenue from all other sources.

The decrease under "Customs" is chiefly due to the smaller consumption of grain, wines, and spirits; that under "Land Revenue" is attributable to the reduction in the rent of several agricultural holdings, owing to a general depreciation of rural property; and the decrease under "Licences" is due to the reduction of the amounts of the fees of licenses for the retail sale of wines and spirits

Expenditure.

The expenditure actually incurred in 1890 was 266,900*l.* 10*s.* 1½*d.* as compared with an estimate of 291,016*l.* 8*s.* 8½*d.*, showing a saving on the estimate for 1890 of 24,115*l.* 18*s.* 7*d.* and an excess of 37,197*l.* 0*s.* 3½*d.* over the expenditure of 1889.

The principal items of excess over last year's expenditure are "Establishments," "Police," "Charitable," "Works, &c.," "Interest," and "Miscellaneous Services." As regards the first two heads, the increase is chiefly due to the re-organization of the staff and the increases of pay in the Police Department, and to further requirements for articles of bedding and furniture for the police stations. As regards the third, the increase is due to higher outlay for provisions, drugs, and surgical instruments for the charitable institutions. As regards Public Works, the increase is mainly due to a larger number of new works carried out in 1890. The increase on the head of interest for the following heads:—Interest payable to the savings bank, which is in part refunded as the profits of the undertaking; interest payable to the depositors of the Dollar Investment Fund, and interest paid to the Administrators of the Pappaffy Fund, recouped by dividends; the excess under miscellaneous is chiefly due to the expenses for improving the sanitation of towns and villages, and to expenses for carrying on the service of the slaughter-houses, from which fees, resulting in a profit, are received.

Legislation.

The following three Ordinances were promulgated during the year 1890:—

No. I.—To provide for the better protection of the owners of coal stored or afloat in the harbours.

No. II.—To amend the Police Law

No. III.—To permit, under certain conditions, the manufacture of spirits in these islands.

Ordinance No. I. originated in the complaints made by the Malta Chamber of Commerce and the agents of steamships, that pilfering coals in the harbours was carried on systematically by a certain class of people who had for years been making of this unlawful practice a regular occupation. The only reliable way of repressing the evil complained of appeared to be the absolute prohibition of the raising of coals or other articles without permission from the bottom of the harbour.

Ordinance II.—This ordinance amends, in several parts, the Police Laws to the following effect.

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It empowers the head of the Government to order that dogs be either properly muzzled or led by a person who can prevent the dog from biting.

It authorises the head of the Government to make regultions with respect to omnibuses and steam launches, to enforce due precaution on the part of householders for avoiding stoppages in house drains, and for making them liable for the expense of removing the causes of such stoppages. This was rendered necessary in consequence of the repeated complaints made by the drainage commissioners and by the sanitary inspector as to the expense of removing stoppages in drains caused by the carelessness and neglect of the occupants of houses, and it was apprehended that this expense would increase unless steps were taken to make the householders liable.

Another important amendment of the Police Laws was enacted, in the sense of giving power to the head of the Government for making regulations in connexion with the emptying of cesspits and to establish the pneumatic system. This checks the objectionable practice of emptying cesspits by buckets and open receptacles through inhabited places, to the general inconvenience and the detriment of the health of the neighbourhood.

The last amendment in this Ordinance has been the re-adjustment of the tariff of fares to be fixed for passage boats.

This tariff was incomplete, omitting to specify many routes frequently traversed, and in many cases the fares fixed were considered to be too low, especially for night service,

Ordinance III.—The object of this Ordinance has been that of granting concessions for distilling or otherwise making spirits under the following restrictions, viz. :—

That the applicant be required to state the capital which he intends to lay out, and the name of the responsible manager, and to exhibit plans of the proposed factory and specifications of the machinery which will be used, the sites for such establishments to be chosen by the Government.

But with a view of ensuring the revenue hitherto accruing from the import duty on spirits, an equal excise duty on the manufacture of spirits is established, and facilities are given for the manufacture of spirits for exportation, exempting them and the materials from which they may be made from any import duty, and granting a drawback of the import duty which may have been paid thereon.

Councils.

In the Executive Council there were no changes amongst the permanent members during the year. Two new unofficial members, Archpriest P. Xuereb and Mr. L. Pace Balzan, were appointed in the place of Baron A. Chapelle, LL.D., and Mr. G. Muscat Azzopardi.

In the Council of Government, Marquis Barbaro of St. George was elected to represent the holders of titles of nobility, &c., in lieu of Baron C. Azopardi, deceased.

Civil Establishments.

During my absence from the island, on leave, the Asssistant Secretary to Government, Mr. Eimlio de Petri performed the duties of the Chief Secretary's Office, from June 26th to October 11th.

Sir S. Naudi, K.C.M.G., performed the duties of Chief Justice during the absence, on leave, of his Honour Sir A. Dingli, G.C.M.G., C.B., LL.D., from June 27th to September 30th.

Sir Joseph Carbone, K.C.M.G., LL.D., who had left the island in November 1889 as Secretary to the Special Mission of Sir L. Simmons at Rome, resumed the duties of his office on the 6th of February 1890; during his absence E. G. Caruana, Esquire, LL.D., acted as Crown Advocate.

Professor G. O. Galea, M.D., acted as chief Government medical officer during the temporary absence from the island of Professor S. L. Pisani, M.D.

Securities of Public Officers.

The bonds given by the public officers who are bound to give security for the due discharge of their duties, as required by Regulations, have been duly examined, and with the exception of very few instances, the names of the several securities on behalf of these public officers have been bound to continue to possess the desired qualifications.

Foreign Consuls.

Mr. Adrien C. L. Cochelet, whose exequatur was signed on the 9th October 1890, succeeded Mr. Paul E. A. Schmid as Consul for France.

No other permanent changes have taken place during the year in the consular body.

Population.

The return under this head prepared by the Police Department shows that there were 6,233 births registered during the year, and 4,421 deaths. The marriages numbered 1,118. The population was, previous to the Census of 1891, estimated to be 165,662, according to which estimate the birth rate would be 38·1 per 1,000, the mortality 26·6, and the marriage rate 6·7.

Savings Bank.

There was deposited in the Government savings bank on the 31st December 1890, by 5,694 depositors, the sum of

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467,347*l.* 11*s.* 11½*d.* Interest at the rate of 2 per cent. per annum is paid on any deposit not less than five shillings and not exceeding 100*l.*

Interest is reckoned from the 1st of the month following the day onwhich a deposit is made, and reckoned every month.

Sums of money deposited in excess of 100*l.* are considered as placed in the bank for safe custody only, and do not bear interest.

The interest on money deposited in the name of any one person ceases on the death of the depositor.

Education.

According to statistical information rendered by the Director of Education to the Senate of the University, it appears that the per-centage of attendance during the scholastic year 1889–90 was 80·8, and the cost of each child's instruction amounted to 1*l.* 1*s.* 1½*d.* The number of children having increased by 1,864, the total number of children receiving instruction in the Government schools was, in October 1890, 11,226, and no less than 2,428 children have been refused admission, owing to insufficient accommodation.

The Senate of the University, in their last annual report, proposed several measures affecting the educational interest of these islands, viz. :—

1. The erection of new buildings for primary schools in those districts where, either on account of insufficient accommodation or on sanitary grounds, suitable premises are wanting.
2. The adoption of the scheme for the classification and raising of the salaries of the teachers in the primary schools.
3. The adoption of the amendment to Articles 82 and 140 of the statute of the University, respecting the conditions under which the academical degrees of M.A. and B.A. may be obtained; and
4. The grant of 30*l.* for the improvement of the instruction given in the training school of the assistant teachers of the primary schools, and a like sum for the establishment of a class of phonography in the Lyceum.

Imports.

The total value of the imports in 1890 was 23,679,321*l.*, showing a falling off compared with 1889 of 607,791*l.*

The value of the imports from the United Kingdom was 134,148*l.*

Exports.

The total value of the exports amounted to 22,144,067*l.*, against 3,627,082*l.* in the previous year.

The exports to the United Kingdom were valued at 3,981,885*l.*

Agriculture.

No marked improvements can be said to have been introduced in agriculture and manufactures during this year; the rental value of land has continued to decline, but the manufacture of cotton stuff and of lucifer matches has considerably progressed.

Progress continues to be made in the cultivation of potatoes and onions. These articles can be brought to maturity much earlier than those grown in other parts of the Continent, thus commanding a good price in the English market.

Shipping.

The arrivals in 1890 were 3,863 steamers and 1,130 sailing vessels. This shows a decrease of 435 steamers and 192 sailing vessels when compared with those of the previous year.

The cause of this decrease is chiefly due to the keen competition evinced in the neighbouring ports, where better advantages are offered in the way of wharves and coaling facilities.

This competition has been so much felt here that a commission appointed by the Malta Chamber of Commerce have recommended to Government the exemption from the port dues of all steamers which call at Malta, and the revision of the Customs Tariff to replenish the Treasury.

Criminal Statistics.

The number of persons apprehended by the police or summoned before the magistrates was 13,466, of whom 12,734 were summarily convicted, and 732 acquitted.

The number of cases treated in Her Majesty's Criminal Court was 120; of these 2 were for murder, 1 for manslaughter, 1 for attempt at murder, 1 for child murder, 49 for offences against the person, 2 for robbery with violence, 22 for offences against property, 14 for offences against the peace of families, and 4 for other offences.

Miscellaneous.

The principal achievement in the path of reform during the year 1890 was the re-organisation of the Malta Police Force, hitherto considered a task fraught with insuperable difficulties.

After protracted discussion, the Council voted an addition of 15,050*l.* 19*s.* 9*d.* a year for this force, providing for the addition of 136 men, and for the introduction in the police organisation of a new grade of officers, to be selected from the higher classes of society. This measure, together with a considerable increase in the rates of pay, merit pay, and efficiency pay, and the appointment of an efficient and responsible chief, rapidly produced a highly satisfactory change in the standing of the police force.

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The Maltese Government, in order to provide substantial assurances to steamers calling to coal at this port, have undertaken the responsibility of causing to be weighed by Custom House weighers, and guarded by Custom House guards, coals supplied to steamers. Whenever the agents and firms supplying coal desire to adopt this system, and to reimburse the expense thereof, the coals are weighed by Custom House weighers, watched by Custom House guards, and placed on board under proper supervision.

Since the introduction of this system, at the end of 1890, steamers do not appear to have had any reasonable cause of complaint as to speedy despatch, and their owners have been enabled to obtain security that their ships have taken their full weight of coals.

The future prosperity of Malta as a port of call appears to depend on a further development of modern principles of commercial security and despatch, as exemplified by the above measures and by Ordinance No. 1 of 1890, "To provide for the "better protection of the owners of coal stored or afloat in the "harbours." A scheme for lighting the harbours, as well as the town, by electricity was set on foot in 1890, by obtaining the advice of Mr. Preece of the London General Post Office, and it is hoped that it will ultimately recommend itself for adoption by the Council of Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. STRICKLAND,
Chief Secretary to Government.

To His Excellency
Sir H. A. Smyth, K.C.M.G.,
Governor of Malta,
&c. &c. &c.

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REPORT for 1891.

SIR H. A. SMYTH to LORD KNUTSFORD.

MY LORD, Palace, Valletta, July 1, 1892.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, the Chief Secretary's Report on the Blue Book for 1891.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. Lord Knutsford, G.C.M.G., &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) H. A. SMYTH, Governor.

SIR, Chief Secretary's Office, Malta, 1892.

I HAVE the honour to submit to your Excellency the following report on the Blue Book for the year 1891:—

Revenue.

—	Customs.			Other Receipts.			Total.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
1888 - - -	156,600	0	5	88,545	13	1½	240,145	13	6½
1889 - - -	161,871	5	0	89,304	9	6	251,175	14	6
1890 - - -	160,162	5	8	101,091	19	10¼	261,254	5	6¼
	478,633	11	1	273,942	2	5¾	752,575	13	6¾
Average of the three years - -	159,544	10	4⅓	91,314	0	9$\frac{1}{12}$	250,858	11	2$\frac{3}{12}$
Revenue in 1891 -	166,777	1	8	108,348	0	11$\frac{3}{12}$	275,125	2	7$\frac{3}{12}$
Increase in 1891 -	7,232	11	3⅓	17,034	0	1⅓	24,266	11	5

The following table compares the actual revenue for 1891 with that of 1890:—

—	Customs.			Other Receipts.			Total.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
1890 - - -	160,162	5	8	101,091	19	10¼	261,254	5	6¼
1891 - - -	166,777	1	8	108,348	0	11¼	275,125	2	7¼
Increase - -	6,614	16	0	7,256	1	1	13,870	17	1

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The following table compares the revenue in 1891 with the revenue as estimated:—

Heads of Revenue.	Estimate.	Actual Revenue.	Excess.	Decrease.
	£ s. d	£ s. d.	£ s. d	£ s. d.
Customs	141,107 0 0	155,085 11 1	13,978 11 1	—
Harbour and quarantine dues	11,669 0 0	10,784 11 0	—	884 9 0
Licences, court fees, &c.	4,301 0 0	5,473 17 8½	1,172 17 8½	—
Fees of court or office payments for specific services and reimbursements	16,288 0 0	20,782 15 6½	4,494 15 6½	—
				—
Post office	9,338 0 0	10,815 7 9	1,477 7 9	—
Water service	4,188 0 0	4,643 1 2	455 1 2	—
Rents—Land	14,696 0 0	14,312 11 11½	—	383 8 0½
Rents exclusive of land	23,714 0 0	25,094 6 2½	1,380 6 2½	—
Rents oncount of foundations	3,948 0 0	4,073 7 10½	125 7 10½	—
Interest	22,048 0 0	24,059 12 3½	2,011 12 3½	—
Total	251,297 0 0	275,125 2 7½	25,095 19 7½	1,267 17 0½
			1,267 17 0½	
Actual increase	—	—	23,828 2 7½	—

The following table compares the revenue received in 1891 with that received in 1890.

Heads of Revenue.	Amount collected in 1890, classified according to Estimate of 1891.	Amount collected in 1891.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Customs	147,140 10 2	155,085 11 1	7,945 0 11	—
Harbour and quarantine dues	11,897 9 4	10,784 11 0	—	1,112 18 4
Licences, court fees, &c.	7,286 0 6½	5,473 17 8½	187 17 2½	—
Fees and reimbursements	19,345 17 6	20,782 15 6½	1,436 18 0½	—
Post office	10,452 1 2	10,815 7 9	363 6 7	—
Water service	4,232 9 9½	4,643 1 2	410 11 4½	—
Rents of land	14,819 2 8½	14,312 11 11½	—	506 10 9
Rents exclusive of land	24,567 1 2½	25,094 6 2½	527 4 11½	—
Rents on account of foundations	4,034 12 3½	4,073 7 10½	38 15 7½	—
Interest	19,479 0 9½	24,059 12 3½	4,580 11 6½	—
Total	261,254 5 6½	275,125 2 7½	15,490 6 2	1,619 9 1
			1,619 9 1	—
Actual increase	—	—	13,870 17 1	—

Expenditure.

—	Salaries and allowances.	Other Expenditure.	Total.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1888 - - -	90,477 1 8	121,836 0 3½	212,313 1 11½
1889 - - -	93,909 15 3	135,793 14 7	229,703 9 10
1890 - - -	97,476 7 11	169,424 2 2½	266,900 10 1½
	281,863 4 10	427,053 17 1	708,917 1 11
Average - - -	93,954 8 8⅓	142,351 5 8⅓	236,305 13 11⅔
1891 - - -	103,984 15 2	177,885 18 3	281,870 13 5
Increase - - -	10,030 6 10⅔	35,534 12 6⅔	45,564 19 5⅓

The following table compares the actual expenditure in 1891 with the estimate of expenditure.

—	Estimate.	Actual Expenditure.	Excess.	Saving.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Personal emoluments -	108,942 9 8	103,984 15 2	—	4,957 14 6
Other charges -	204,221 8 0	177,885 18 3	—	26,335 9 9
Total -	313,163 17 8	281,870 13 5	—	31,293 4 3

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The following is a comparison of the expenditure for 1891 with the expenditure for 1890.

—	Expenditure in 1890, classified according to the Estimate of 1891.	Expenditure in 1891.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Interest and burthens	15,451 16 2	16,266 14 3	814 18 1	—
Pensions	13,556 10 5½	12,335 19 10	—	1,220 10 7½
The Governor and Legislature	4,704 8 1	5,198 16 11	494 8 10	—
Chief Secretary	4,101 0 8	4,260 6 10	159 6 2	—
Receiver General	2,130 10 7	2,141 14 8	11 4 1	—
Customs	5,282 19 0	5,451 10 8	168 11 8	—
Audit and Contract Department	1,481 16 1	1,561 11 1	79 15 0	—
Printing office	966 13 6	939 17 0	—	26 16 6
Port and Marine Department	6,610 4 5	4,598 14 10	—	2,011 9 7
Legal Departments	17,061 8 10	17,799 10 7	738 1 9	—
Police Department	28,509 2 2	38,747 15 5	10,238 13 3	—
Prisons	3,206 2 1	3,319 18 9	113 16 8	—
Charitable institutions	37,531 10 8	39,310 9 4	1,778 18 8	—
Educational Department	18,722 13 11	19,602 6 4	879 12 5	—
Post Office	7,265 17 6	9,218 18 6	1,953 1 0	—
Railway Department	—	906 19 1	906 19 1	—
Military expenditure	5,000 0 0	5,000 0 0	—	—
Miscellaneous services	11,171 1 6	10,488 0 8	—	683 0 10
Superintendent of Works Department	81,825 18 4	6,269 8 3	1,555 17 2	—
Public works annually recurrent		57,780 3 4		
Public works extraordinary		19,332 3 11		
Stationery	1,041 4 10	—	—	1,041 4 10
	266,900 10 1½	281,870 13 5	19,953 5 8	4,983 2 4½
Government immovable Property account	—	6,135 7 6	6,135 7 6	—

Legislation.

The following Ordinances were passed by the Council of Government and promulgated during the year 1891:—

No. I.

For applying a sum not exceeding 12,750*l.* 12*s.* 8*d.* to the service of the year 1889.

No. II.

To make some provisions for taking the census of these Islands in the year 1891.

No. III.

To amend Ordinance No. II. of 1891.

No. IV.

To amend the laws relative to the admission of any person to act in the capacity of master, mate, or engineer on board merchant ships, and to make some other provisions.

No. V.

To authorise the head of the Government to cause the alienation of certain stock, and again to invest the proceeds thereof in effecting certain remunerative works

No. VI.

To amend Ordinance No. I. of 1874.

No. VII.

For applying a sum not exceeding 59,047*l.* 13*s.* 11½*d.* to the service of the year 1890.

No. VIII.

For applying a sum not exceeding 197,154*l.* 3*s.* 9*d.* to the service of the year 1891.

No. IX.

To amend Ordinance No. II. of 1884.

Civil Establishments.

The changes in office during the year were the following:—

Capt. C. Gatt, R.M.M., Superintendent of the Government Printing Office, has been appointed Assistant Secretary to Government for Gozo, instead of Mr. P. Trapani; Mr. A. Sciortino appointed Receiver General in place of Mr. G. Cousin, M.D., Mr. P. Trapani appointed Auditor General and Director of Contracts, in the place of Mr. A. Sciortino; Mr. T. P. Bellanti has been placed in charge of the Government Printing Office, in addition to his duties on the clerical establishment and as stenographer to the Council of Government; Mr. S. Staines, Master Mariner, on the amalgamation of the Port Department with the Customs Department, has been appointed to the new situation of "Chief Port Officer," Baron A. Chapelle, LL.D., appointed one of Her Majesty's Judges, in place of Dr. G. Gasan, deceased; Syndic Dr. G. B. Mifsud appointed to act as magistrate of judicial police; Mr. G. B. Mattei, Lieut. R.M.M., and Mr. A. Gouder, appointed assistant superintendents of police; Marquis G. C. Barbaro, of St. George, Capt. R.M.M., appointed superintendent of the Corradino Prison, instead of Mr. S. Staines; Reverend V. Vella appointed Chaplain of the Hospital of Santo Spirito, in the place of the Franciscan

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Friars who where detailed by the superior of their community to do duty in that hospital; Mr. J. S. Rutter, M.D., Mr. V. Grech, M.D., and Mr. J. E. Zammit, M.D., appointed district medical officers, respectively, for Siggieni, Hamrun, and Misida.

Population.

The population of these islands on the 31st December was reported to be as follows:—

	Males.	Females.	Total.	Remarks.
Malta - - -	72,935	74,438	147,373	Not including the Queen's troops and their families.
Gozo - - -	8,925	9,755	18,680	
Total - -	81,860	84,193	166,053	

Births.

Males.	Females.	Total.
2,294	2,127	4,421

Deaths.

Males.	Females.	Total.
1,750	1,655	3,405

Marriages.

Males.	Females.	Total.
1,245	1,245	1,245

Savings Banks.

The amount of deposits in the savings bank was as follows:—

	1891.	Depositors.	1890.	Depositors.
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.	
In Malta - -	434,315 14 8	5,347	422,759 8 0½	5,116
In Gozo - -	40,887 2 4	622	38,406 15 8	578
	475,202 17 0	5,969	461,166 3 3½	5,694
Interest accrued due during 1891, and unpaid - -	6,585 15 0	—	—	—
Grand Total -	481,788 12 0	—	—	—

Savings Bank.—Profit and Loss Account.

Dr.	£ s. d.	Cr.	£ s. d.
Establishment Expenses:—		By Depositors' account:—	
To Salaries for 1891 - -	231 19 2	„ Recovered interest - -	28 14 3
„ Sundry office expenses -	164 16 5	„ Book account - - -	10 16 0
„ Rent account - - -	108 0 0	„ Dividends from consols -	11,099 2 9
„ Interest paid and due for 1891 - - - -	6,956 18 5	„ Interest from Monte -	1,634 10 0
	7,491 14 0		
Balance to profit - -	5,271 9 0		
	12,763 3 0		12,763 3 0

Balance Sheet of the Savings Banks on 31st December 1891.

Dr.	£ s. d.	Cr.	£ s. d.
To Treasury banking account -	27,545 2 2	By Depositors' account - -	481,788 12 0
„ Monte di Pietà - -	54,150 0 0	„ Malta Branch (Gozo) account current - -	399 6 11
„ Cash account - - -	399 6 11	„ Profit and loss - -	5,271 9 0
„ Investments - - -	404,965 11 11		
„ Goza Branch (Malta) account current - - -	399 6 1		
	487,459 7 11		487,459 7 11

Balance Sheet of the Monte di Pietà on 31st December 1891.

Dr.	£ s. d.	Cr.	£ s. d.
Assets.		*Liabilities.*	
To landed property - -	70,214 15 10	By Stock - - - -	50,214 15 10
„ Cash - - - -	192 18 11½	„ Loans - - - -	7,569 3 9
„ Pawning transactions -	41,437 8 11½	„ Savings bank - - -	54,150 0 0
„ Treasury banking account -	2,702 16 8½	„ Surplus on sales of pawns -	2,035 12 0½
„ Gozo Branch (Malta) account current - - -	74 16 2½	„ Malta Branch (Gozo) account current - -	74 16 2½
		„ Profit and loss - -	578 9 10½
	144,622 16 8½		144,622 16 8½

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Education.

The following is a list of the Government educational establishments :—

	No. of Scholars.	
	1891.	1890.
The University, attended by - -	158	76
The Lyceum, attended by - -	450	450
Two Secondary Schools, attended by -	197	167
Seventy-six Primary Schools, attended by - - - - -	10,800	10,244
Ten Infant Schools, attended by -	985	982
Total - -	12,590	11,919

The expenditure of the educational establishments amounted to 18,912*l.* 17*s.* 10*d.*, and the fees paid by the scholars for attendance in the University and Lyceum to 475*l.* 8*s.* 4*d.*

Imports and Exports.

	£		£	
The following is the value of cargoes imported and actually landed at this port -	1,019,088	in 1891, against	778,573	in 1890.
Value of cargoes which merely touched at this port and were re-exported in the same vessels - -	34,572,911	against	22,900,748	„
	35,591,999		23,679,321	„

viz.:—

From the U. Kingdom -	129,212	against	134,148	in 1890.
From the British Colonies	1,937,131	„	763,230	„
From H.M.'s ships in port	844	„	900	„
From foreign countries -	33,524,812	„	22,781,043	„
	35,591,999		23,679,321	„

showing an increase of 11,912,678*l.*

	£		£	
The value of exports from portions of cargoes which were actually landed at this port - -	50,209	in 1891, against	37,482	in 1890.
Value of exports of whole cargoes which merely touched at this port and proceeded in the same vessels -	34,905,768	against	22,106,585	„
	34,955,977		22,144,067	„

viz.:—

To the United Kingdom	5,705,751	against	3,981,885	in 1890.
„ British Colonies -	14,468,660	„	8,707,077	„
„ H.M.'s ships -	5,544	„	3,483	„
„ foreign countries -	14,776,022	„	9,451,622	„
	34,955,977		22,144,067	„

showing an increase of 12,811,910*l.*

The shipping movements in the port during the last three years are as follows:—

Year.	Steamers.		Sailing Vessels.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
1888 - - -	4,336	5,143,248	1,557	13,738
1889 - - -	4,298	5,099,734	1,322	108,720
1890 - - -	3,863	4,495,864	1,130	78,604
	12,497	14,738,846	4,009	319,062
Average - -	4,166	4,912,949	1,336	106,354
1891 - -	3,286	3,988,397	1,410	106,348
Decrease - -	880	924,552	—	6
Increase - -	—	—	74	—

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The following table compares the actual arrivals in 1891 with those in 1890:—

Year.	Steamers.		Sailing Vessels.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
1890 - - - -	3,863	4,495,864	1,130	78,604
1891 - - - -	3,286	3,988,397	1,410	106,348
Decrease - - -	577	507,467	—	—
Increase - - -	—	—	280	27,744

Criminal Statistics.

The following is a statement of offences punishable under local laws, showing the number of accusations and of persons brought before the courts by the police in 1891:—

Offences.	No. of Cases.	No. of Persons.	Acquitted.	Condemned.
Crimes against public tranquility - -	141	179	15	164
„ affecting public credit - -	5	8	2	6
„ „ the good order of families -	53	64	17	47
„ against the person - - -	804	1,007	124	883
„ „ property - - -	279	380	106	274
Contempt of court - - - -	7	8	—	8
CONTRAVENTIONS.				
Affecting public order - - -	1,599	2,823	277	2,546
Against the person - - - -	406	568	61	507
„ property - - - -	151	234	31	203
OTHER CONTRAVENTIONS.				
Under special Ordinances - - -	983	1,490	50	1,440
POLICE LAWS.				
Contraventions - - - -	3,532	5,861	162	5,699
Total - -	7,960	12,622	845	11,777

viz.:—

Maltese - - - - -	12,421
English - - - - -	129
Foreigners - - - -	72
Total - - -	12,622

The number of persons committed to prison in 1891 was as follows:—

Men - - - - -	4,536
Women - - - - -	543
Boys - - - - -	1,108
Girls - - - - -	28
Total - - -	6,215

GENERAL REMARKS.

Revenue and Expenditure.

The revenue of the Colony received during the year 1891 amounted to 275,125*l.* 2*s.* 7¼*d.*; the balance available at the end of 1890 for services to be voted in 1891 was 50,683*l.* 18*s.* 5*d.*, making a total of 326,809*l.* 1s. 0¼*d.*

The expenditure for 1891 was 281,870*l.* 13*s.* 5*d.*; the corresponding figures for 1890 were: Revenue 261,254*l.* 5*s.* 6¼*d.*, available balance at the end of 1889 55,695*l.* 14*s.* 0¾*d.*, and expenditure 266,900*l.* 10*s.* 1¼*d.*

Revenue.

The above figures show an increase in the revenue of 13,870*l.* 17*s.* 1*d.* Increases are shown under almost every head of revenue, the most noticeable being the increases on Customs receipts, 7,945*l.* 0*s.* 11*d.*; on fees and reimbursements, 1,436*l.* 18*s.* 0¼*d.*, and on interest, 4,580*l.* 11*s.* 6¼*d.* The increase on Customs receipts is due to greater importation of almost all articles subject to duty; that under "Fees and Reimbursements" is chiefly attributable to the fact that the rate (⅜) of the drainage expenses due by the Imperial Government in 1890 was cashed in 1891; and that under "Interest" is due to further investments in British consols, and to higher amount of profit of the savings bank.

The decreases were principally on "Harbour and Quarantine Dues," and on "Rents of Land." The cause of the decrease under the former head is due to the reduced number of arrivals of steamers, and to the absence of quarantine on arrivals from abroad, and that under the latter is attributable to the reduction of rent of several tenements, owing to the general depreciation of rural property.

Expenditure.

The total increase of expenditure as compared with 1890 was 14,970*l.* 3*s.* 3½*d.*

The increases are chiefly under heads "Police," "Charitable Institutions," "Post Office," and "Public Works Department," and

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are respectively due to the re-organization of the police force; to higher cost of provisions and articles of clothing and bedding in the charitable institutions; to the fact that a portion of the international transit rates and expenses for the International Bureau due in 1890 were paid in 1891, and to the large number of public works carried out in 1891.

Legislation.

Nine Ordinances were passed in 1891. The most important of these Ordinances were the following:—

No. II.—"To make some provisions for taking the Census of these Islands in the year 1891."

This Ordinance was drafted on the basis of the recommendations contained in the Report of the Commission appointed by his Excellency the Governor, on the 15th of April 1890, to whom was entrusted the duty of advising the Governor on the steps to be taken towards the preparation of the Census for 1891. The provisions of this Ordinance were assimilated, as far as possible, with those of the Imperial Census Act.

No. IV.—"To amend the laws relative to the admission of any person to act in the capacity of master, mate, or engineer on board merchant ships, and to make some other provisions."

This Ordinance, which repeals Ordinance No. II. of 1873, was rendered necessary in consequence of certain alterations in the Regulations issued by the Board of Trade relating to the examinations of masters, mates, and engineers.

One of the principal provisions in this Ordinance is to the effect that persons applying to be examined for any of the above grades need not produce documentary evidence that they have followed a regular course of studies in a school of navigation, or, as the case may be, in a Government school for mechanical engineers.

Article No. 37 of the old Ordinance, requiring that foreigners wishing to undergo an examination for any of the above grades must prove a residence of ten years in these Islands, is revoked.

No. VI.—"To amend Ordinance No. I. of 1874."

This Ordinance is in part a consequence of the passing of Ordinance No. IV.; extends the jurisdiction of the magistrates in dealing with shipping inquiries, and modifies the fees payable to nautical assessors.

No. V.—"To authorise the head of the Government to cause 'the alienation of certain stock, and again to invest the proceeds "thereof in effecting certain remunerative works."

The stock alluded to in this Ordinance is the amount of the money derived from the sales of Government property separately invested in consols.

This Ordinance authorises the Government to re-invest the proceeds of the stock in the erection of buildings to serve as

Government schools, police stations, Government dispensaries, and such other works as would, if rented, yield a larger profit than the rate of interest on the money so invested in consols.

Legislative Council.

The Legislative Council met for business during the year 1891 on the 14th of January and sat until the 6th May; by Proclamations dated respectively the 19th June and the 15th July the Council was prorogued, and on the 31st October last the Council met again, when the elected members were sworn in.

Civil Establishment.

During the temporary absence of his Excellency the Governor, the administration of the Government was carried on by the late Major-General Hales Wilkie, who has been nominated and appointed Deputy Governor, from 6th to 14th April, and from 6th August to 22nd September last.

On the 6th August I left on leave of absence, and on the 10th of same month returned to this Island and resumed the duties of my office. During my short absence the Honourable F. Vella acted as Chief Secretary to Government, and F. Musci, Esq., acted as Collector of Customs.

Sir Adrian Dingli, G.C.M.G., C.B., LL.D., was granted leave of absence from the 1st July to the 30th September, and Sir S. Naudi, K.C.M.G., the senior judge, acted as Chief Justice.

The Honourable Sir Joseph Carbone, K.C.M.G., LL.D., left the Island on the 27th July on the public service, and did not return until the 7th September, during which period Alfredo Naudi, Esq., LL.D., acted as Crown Advocate.

The Honourable A. Sciortino obtained three months' leave of absence to proceed to the Continent, from the 10th July, and E. Trapani, Esq., was appointed to act as Auditor-General and Director of Contracts.

The Honourable R. Micallef proceeded on leave of absence on the 26th July, and C. Bonavia, Esq., was appointed to act as Comptroller of Charitable Institutions.

Securities of Public Officers.

At the annual inspection of securities it was found that 36 officers in positions of trust give security for the due discharge of their duties, and the sums for which they were liable varied from 25*l.* to 2,000*l.*

The value of the sureties of the various officers was duly inquired into and found to be satisfactory.

Foreign Consuls.

On the 1st September Mr. Andrea Charalambis succeeded Mr. L. C. Metaxà in the Greek Consulate. His exequator was signed on the 19th August 1891.

MALTA.

Mr. Joseph F. Balbi was appointed Vice-Consul for the United States of America in the place of Mr. C. B. Eynaud, deceased.

No new consulates were established in the Colony during the year.

Population.

The population is steadily increasing. The enumerations taken in the Census on the 5th April were 165,037.

To this may be added 1,016, to represent the excess of births over deaths between the above date and 31st December, and the estimated population at the close of the year may be put down as 166,053.

The birth-rate in 1891 was	26·6	against	38·1	in 1890.	
The death-rate	„	20·5	„	26·6	„
The marriage rate	„	7·4	„	6·7	„

The health of the Island was good throughout the year, and there was no epidemic disease.

Savings Banks.

The deposits in the savings banks up to 31st December 1891 amounted to 475,202*l.* 17*s.*, or a net addition of 14,036*l.* 13*s.* 8½*d.* to the total investments at the beginning of the year.

The number of depositors in 1891 were 5,969 as against 5,694 in 1890.

The interest paid and remaining due in 1891 amounted to 6,956*l.* 18*s.* 5*d.*, and the dividends from money belonging to the savings bank and invested in the Consols, and in the Monte di Pietà were 11,099*l.* 2*s.* 9*d.* and 1,624*l.* 10*s.* respectively.

Education.

Under the management of the Director of Education, assisted by an inspector, the education of these Islands progresses rapidly. The number of children admitted into the primary and infant schools, as far as the accommodation admits, increases year by year, and the anxiety of the lower class of the population to profit by the elementary instruction offered to them is most marked.

The Director of Education reports that out of the 36,790 children of school age, 2,474 were returned in the last Census as attending private schools, and 11,785 were, on the 1st September last, in the Government elementary schools.

The total of 11,785 children in the elementary schools represents 32·03 per cent. of the whole number of children of school age, and 7·14 per cent. of the whole population.

In former Reports the Director constantly dwelt upon the special drawbacks inherent in many of our elementary schools upon the manifold difficulties the teachers have to contend with, and on the urgency of providing more accommodation for the

numerous children seeking admission. Steps, however, are now being taken to prepare plans and estimates for the building of the new schools in that district in which the need is greatest, and for the enlargement of four other school buildings which are Government property.

Imports and Exports.

The imports of the Colony in 1891 were valued at 35,591,999*l.* This is an increase of 11,912,678*l.* as compared with the imports of 1890, which amounted to 23,679,321*l.*

This increase is due to the increased importation of goods subject to duty, these imports being valued at 1,019,088*l.* for cargoes actually landed at this port, and at 34,572,911*l.* for cargoes which merely touched at this port, as against 778,573*l.* and 22,900,748*l.* in 1890.

The value of the exports was 34,955,977*l.* in 1891 as against 22,144,067*l.* in 1890, showing an increase of 12,811,910*l.*

The difference in the exports between the two years is accounted for by the increase in the quantity of articles subject to duty, viz., 12,727*l.*, value of goods from portions of cargoes which were actually landed at this port, and 12,799,183*l.* value of exports of cargoes which actually touched at this port and proceeded in the same vessels.

Shipping.

The steam vessels entered and cleared at the port of Malta were less in number and in tonnage than in 1890.

In 1891, 3,286 steamers, with a tonnage of 3,988,397, and 1,410 sailing ships, with a tonnage of 106,348, entered these ports.

During the preceding three years the annual average was 4,166 steamers with a tonnage of 4,912,949. This will bring in 1891 a reduction of 880 steamers and of 924,552 tons on the average of the three preceding years.

As to sailing vessels there has been an increase of 74 when compared with the average number of arrivals during the preceding three years, and an increase of 280 as against the arrivals of 1890.

The cause of the reduction in the number of steamers is attributed to the increasing use of triple expansion engines, which has considerably reduced the consumption of coals, and most of the steamers are thus enabled to continue their voyages without calling at Malta as often as heretofore.

The closing of the trade of ports of the Black Sea for this year, owing to the deficient harvest in Russia, is another cause that has reduced the number of steamers calling at this port.

The importation of coal has also decreased, which circumstance, coupled with the steady reduction in the number of arrivals, has caused considerable depression and lack of work among the coal-heavers.

MALTA.

Criminal Statistics.

The returns under this head respecting the number of apprehensions, convictions, and acquittals for the last two years show a reduction in the number of crimes in 1891.

In the courts of the police magistrates the summary convictions were as follows: 1,327 for offences against the person as against 985 in 1890; for offences against the good order of families there were 36 as against 28 during the previous year; 424 were for offences against property as against 406 in 1890; and for other offences there were 9,872 as against 11,201.

The number of persons acquitted in the above courts amounted to 803.

The number of convictions in the Superior Courts, Criminal Branch, were 63 for offences against the person; 11 for offences against the good order of families; 53 for offences against property; and 6 for other offences, besides other 27 indictments, in which judgments were given for the prisoners.

The total number of the above apprehensions amounted to 12,622 as against 13,466 in 1890, classified as follows:—

12,421 Maltese against 13,318 in 1890; 129 English against 109 in 1890; and 72 foreigners against 39 in 1890.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. STRICKLAND,
Chief Secretary to Government.

To His Excellency
Sir H. A. Smyth, K.C.M.G.,
Governor of Malta,
&c. &c. &c.

LONDON: Printed by EYRE and SPOTTISWOODE,
Printers to the Queen's most Excellent Majesty.
For Her Majesty's Stationery Office.

No. 79.

MALTA.

(For Reports for 1890 and 1891, *see* Colonial Report [Annual] No. 48.)

SIR H. A. SMYTH to the MARQUESS OF RIPON.

MY LORD, Palace, Valletta, June 7, 1893.

I HAVE the honour to transmit, herewith, the Blue Book for 1892, with a covering report from the Chief Secretary to Government.

I have, &c.

The Most Hon. (Signed) H. A. SMYTH,
the Marquess of Ripon, K.G., Governor.
&c. &c. &c.

Chief Secretary's Office, Valletta,
May 31, 1893.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to submit the following report on the Blue Book for 1892:—

1. The revenue and expenditure may be tabulated thus:—

Revenue.

Heads of Revenue, from 1st January to 31st December.	Estimate.	Actual.	Excess.	Deficiency.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Customs	146,583 0 0	161,158 0 4	14,575 0 4	—
Harbour and quarantine dues	12,465 0 0	8,608 8 6	—	3,856 11 6
Licences, court fines, &c.	5,233 0 0	5,860 0 8½	627 0 8½	—
Fees and reimbursements	17,845 0 0	22,937 16 8½	5,092 16 8½	—
Post office	10,907 0 0	10,743 18 6	736 18 6	—
Railway (from 25th February)	*4,700 0 0	3,750 19 10	—	†949 0 2
Water supply	8,060 0 0	7,314 9 7½	—	745 10 4½
Rents—Rural	14,710 0 0	14,283 18 2½	—	426 1 9½
Rents—Urban	24,680 0 0	25,804 7 11½	1,124 7 11½	—
Rents on account of foundations	4,040 0 0	4,172 5 11½	132 5 11½	—
Interest	23,653 0 0	24,597 4 10½	944 4 10½	—
Total	271,976 0 0	289,231 11 2½	23,232 15 0½	5,977 3 9½

* Estimate for 12 months.
† Due to the re-opening of the line not having taken place till February 25, and to the estimate being reckoned for 12 months working.

MALTA. 1892.

Comparative Statement of the Revenue of 1892.

Heads of Revenue.	Amount collected in 1891.	Amount collected in 1892.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Customs	155,085 11 1	161,158 0 4	6,072 9 3	—
Harbour and quarantine dues	10,784 11 0	8,608 8 6	—	2,176 2 6
Licences, court fines, &c.	5,473 17 8½	5,860 0 8½	386 2 11½	—
Fees and reimbursements	20,782 15 6½	22,937 16 8½	2,155 1 2	—
Post office	10,815 7 9	10,743 18 6	—	71 9 3
Railway	—	3,750 19 10	3,750 19 10	—
Water supply	4,643 1 2	7,314 9 7½	2,671 8 5½	—
Rents—Rural	14,312 11 11½	14,283 18 2½	—	28 13 8½
Rents—Urban	25,094 6 2½	25,804 7 11½	710 1 9½	—
Rents on account of foundations	4,073 7 10½	4,172 5 11½	98 18 0½	—
Interest	24,059 12 3½	24,597 4 10½	537 12 6½	—
Total	275,125 2 7½	289,231 11 2½	16,382 14 1½	2,276 5 5½

Expenditure from December 1, 1891, *to December* 31, 1892.

Personal Emoluments.	Estimate.	Actual.	Excess.	Saving.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
The Governor and Legislature	4,138 1 6	4,087 2 0	—	50 19 6
Chief Secretary's Department	3,989 19 11	3,990 4 0	0 4 1	—
Receiver General's Department	2,175 14 9	2,202 14 8	26 19 11	—
Customs and Port Department	9,252 19 10	8,990 16 9	—	262 3 1
Audit Department	1,661 8 8	1,538 10 9	—	122 17 11
Printing office	1,011 10 6	843 3 11	—	168 6 7
Railway Department	1,940 12 0	1,537 11 8	—	403 7 4
Legal Departments	16,099 2 10	15,763 5 7	—	335 17 3
Police	37,678 16 3	36,555 3 7	—	1,123 12 8
Prisons	1,640 4 8	1,610 11 11	—	29 12 9
Charitable Institutions including Monte di Pieta	13,569 6 9	12,615 16 7	—	953 10 2
Education	18,218 12 5	18,056 17 10	—	161 14 7
Post Office	3,329 10 11	3,148 15 5	—	180 15 6
Ecclesiastical	733 2 11	733 2 11	—	—
Superintendent of Works Department	6,096 3 3	5,795 4 4	—	300 18 11
	121,535 14 2	117,469 1 11	27 4 0	4,093 16 3

Other Charges.	Estimate.	Actual.	Excess.	Saving.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Charges on account of interest and burthens	16,542 17 9	16,333 3 3	—	209 14 6
Pensions	13,885 10 1	14,528 8 0	642 17 11	—
The Governor and Legislature	748 9 11	698 9 6	—	50 0 5
Chief Secretary's Department	694 0 0	628 13 3	—	65 6
Receiver General's Department	414 4 4	276 3 4	—	138 1 0
Customs and Port Department	2,621 16 8	2,554 18 3	—	66 18 5
Audit Department	102 10 0	72 10 11	—	29 19 1
Printing office	728 6 6	717 10 5	—	10 16 1
Railway Department	3,684 8 11	3,631 18 4½	—	52 10 6½
Legal Departments	3,870 14 9	3,675 12 5	—	195 2 4
Police	7,111 7 5	7,080 8 2	—	30 19 3
Prisons	2,384 3 4	2,301 14 0	—	82 9 4
Charitable Institutions including Monte di Pieta	1,605 17 6	30,905 16 7	—	700 0 11
Education	3,348 18 0	3,272 14 11	—	76 3 1
Post office	9,020 16 11	6,346 0 7	—	2,674 16 4
Ecclesiastical	809 12 11	772 11 10	—	37 1 1
Military Expenditure	5,000 0 0	5,000 0 0	—	—
Miscellaneous Services	12,361 9 11	10,629 10 3½	—	1,731 19 7½
Superintendent of Public Works	1,389 18 0	1,363 17 7	—	26 0 5
Public Works recurrent	68,145 19 7	55,759 0 0	—	12,386 19 7
Public Works extraordinary	23,284 18 8	13,353 1 4	—	9,931 17 4
	207,756 1 2	179,902 3 0½	642 17 11	28,496 16 0½

Comparctive Statement of the Expenditure of 1892.

Heads.	Amount expended in 1891.	Amount expended from 1st December 1891 to 31st December 1892.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Interest and burthens	16,266 14 3	16,333 3 3	66 9 0	—
Pensions	12,335 19 10	14,528 8 0	2,192 8 2	—
The Governor and Legislature	5,198 16 11	4,785 11 6	—	413 5 5
Chief Secretary	4,260 6 10	4,618 17 3	358 10 5	—
Receiver General	2,141 14 8	2,478 18 0	337 3 4	—
Customs and Port Department	10,050 5 6	11,545 15 0	1,495 9 6	—
Audit Department	1,561 11 1	1,611 1 8	49 10 7	—
Printing office	939 17 0	1,560 14 4	620 17 4	—
Railway Department	906 19 1	5,169 10 0½	4,262 10 11½	—

Heads.	Amount expended in 1891.	Amount expended from 1st December 1891 to 31st December 1892.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Legal Departments - - -	17,799 10 7	19,438 18 0	1,639 7 5	—
Police Department - - -	38,747 15 5	43,635 11 9	4,887 16 4	—
Prisons - - - - -	3,319 18 9	3,912 5 11	592 7 2	—
Charitable institutions - - -	39,310 9 4	43,521 13 2	4,211 3 10	—
Educational - - - -	19,602 6 4	21,329 12 9	1,727 6 5	—
Post Office - - - -	9,218 18 6	9,494 16 0	275 17 6	—
Ecclesiastical - - - -	1,339 13 2	1,505 14 9	166 1 7	—
Military expenditure - - -	5,000 0 0	5,000 0 0	—	—
Miscellaneous services - - -	10,488 0 8	10,629 10 3½	141 9 7½	—
Superintendent of Public Works -	6,269 8 3	7,159 1 11	889 13 8	—
Public works annually recurrent -	57,780 3 4	55,759 0 0	—	2,021 3 4
Public works extraordinary - -	19,332 3 11	13,353 1 4	—	5,978 2 7
	281,870 13 5	297,371 4 11½	23,914 2 10½	8,413 11 4
Government Immovable Property Account - - - -	6,135 7 6	6,735 4 0½	599 16 6½	—

Legislation.

The following Ordinances were passed by the Council of Government and promulgated during the year 1892:—

No. I.

To make provisions for the formation, by voluntary enlistment, of a corps to be called "The Malta Militia Division of Submarine Miners, Royal Engineers," and for the training, exercise, and discipline thereof.

No. II.

To amend No. 36 of Article 307 of the Criminal Laws.

No. III.

To transfer to Her Majesty's Commercial Court, the jurisdiction exercised in these islands by the Vice-Admiralty Court.

No. IV.

To exempt the "Conservatorio Vincenzo Bugeja" from the obligation of selling certain property.

No. V.

To amend Proclamation No. XXIII. of 1822.

No. VI.

For the naturalization of Santi Bisazza.

No. VII.

To amend the laws of Organisation and Civil Procedure.

No. VIII.

For applying a sum not exceeding 73,368*l.* 10*s.* to the service of the year 1891.

No. IX.

For applying a sum not exceeding 266,369*l.* 12*s.* 8*d.*, to the service for the 13 months from December 1, 1891, to December 31, 1892.

Establishments.

The changes in office during the year were the following:—

Mr. P. Trapani, Auditor-General and Director of Contracts, was appointed Receiver-General and Director of Contracts; Mr. A. Sciortino, Receiver-General was appointed Auditor-General; Mr. P. De Bono, LL.D., Professor of Law in the University, was appointed one of Her Majesty's Judges, in the place of Judge Mr. L. Xuereb, LL.D., superannuated; Mr. G. Busuttil, M.D., appointed to the new situation of Resident Superintendent and Medical Officer of the New Poor House; Mr. W. R. Rapinet, M.D., formerly Resident Assistant Physician and Surgeon at the Lunatic Asylum, appointed Assistant to the latter officer; Mr. G. Ullo Xuereb, M.D., appointed Resident Assistant Physician and Surgeon of the Lunatic Asylum; Mr. A. Naudi, LL.D., appointed Professor of Law *vice* Mr. P. De Bono, LL.D., appointed one of Her Majesty's Judges; Mr. R. Bamber appointed Teacher of English and Mathematics, in the place of Mr. Spruyt de Bay, resigned; Mr. A. M. Spiteri, late schoolmaster at Kala, Gozo, appointed schoolmaster at Chircop, in lieu of Mr. Ellul; Mr. Giorgio Caruana, appointed schoolmaster at Kala, Gozo, *vice* Mr. A. M. Spiteri transferred to the post of schoolmaster at Chircop; Mr. Frederick Mamo, Deputy Superintendent of Public Works, appointed Postmaster-General *vice* Sir F. Inglott, K.C.M.G., pensioned; and Mr. Lorenzo Gatt, C.E., appointed Acting Manager of the Railway.

MALTA. 1892.

Population.

The population of these islands on December 31 was as follows:—

—	Males.	Females.	Total.	Remarks.
Malta - - -	73,149	74,792	147,941	Not including troops from the United Kingdom and their families.
Gozo - - -	9,069	9,879	18,948	
Total - -	82,218	84,671	166,889	

Males.	Females.	Total.
	Births.	
3,341	3,237	6,578
	Deaths.	
2,983	2,759	5,742
	Marriages.	
1,086	1,086	1,086

The amount of deposits in the savings bank was as follows:—

—	1892.	Depositors.	1891.	Depositors.
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.	
In Malta - -	442,393 19 6¾	5,430	434,315 14 8	5,347
In Gozo - -	44,506 17 1	643	40,887 2 4	622
Totals - -	486,900 16 7¾	6,073	475,202 17 0	5,969

Savings Bank.—Profit and Loss Account.

DR.	£ s. d.	CR.	£ s. d.
Establishment Expenses:—			
To Salaries for 1892 - -	343 3 7	By interest recovered - -	25 12 1
„ Office expenses - -	15 16 1	„ Book account - - -	9 15 3
„ Rent account - - -	108 0 0	„ Dividends from consols -	11,218 17 4
„ Interest paid and due for 1892 - - - -	7,194 14 0	„ Interest from Monte -	1,685 15 0
	7,661 13 8		
Balance to profit - -	5,278 6 0		
	12,939 19 8		12,939 19 8

Balance Sheet of the Savings Bank on December 31, 1892.

Assets.	£ s. d.	*Liabilities.*	£ s. d.
Treasury banking account -	22,761 12 3½	Depositors' account - -	486,900 16 7½
Investments - - -	469,131 11 11	„ Profit and loss - -	5,278 6 0
Gozo Branch (Malta) account current - - -	285 18 5		
	492,179 2 7½		492,179 2 7½

Balance Sheet of the Monte di Pietà on December 31, 1892.

Assets.	£ s. d.	*Liabilities.*	£ s. d.
Landed property - - -	70,214 15 10	Stock - - - -	50,314 15 10
Cash - - - - -	234 1 3	Loans - - - -	7,694 9 5
Pawning transactions - -	47,986 3 5½	Treasury loan account - -	60,156 0 0
Treasury banking account -	2,160 9 10	Surplus on sales of pawns -	2,162 11 8
Gozo Branch (Malta) account current - - -	69 3 9½	Malta Branch (Gozo) account current - -	69 3 9½
		Profit and loss - - -	433 13 5½
	120,664 14 2½		120,664 14 2½

Education.

The following is a list of the Government educational establishments :—

	No. of Scholars.	
	1892.	1891.
The University, attended by - -	96	158
The Lyceum, attended by - -	436	450
Two Secondary Schools, attended by -	207	197
Seventy-seven Primary Schools, attended by - - - - -	11,046	10,800
Ten Infant Schools, attended by -	1,020	985
Total - -	12,805	12,590

The expenditure of the educational establishments amounted to 20,601*l.* 16*s.* 5*d.*, and the fees paid by the scholars for attendance in the University and Lyceum to 534*l.* 18*s.* 7*d.*

MALTA. 1892.

Imports and Exports.

	£		£	
The following is the value of cargoes imported and actually landed at this port -	1,040,832	{in 1892, against}	1,019,088	in 1891.
Value of cargoes which merely touched at this port and were re-exported in the same vessels - -	11,592,206	{in 1892, against}	34,572,911	in 1891.
	12,633,038		35,591,999	„

viz.:—

From the U. Kingdom -	183,482	{in 1892, against}	129,212	in 1891.
From the British Colonies	818,902	„	1,937,131	„
From H.M.'s ships in port	656	„	844	„
From foreign countries -	11,629,998	„	33,524,812	„
	12,633,038		35,591,999	„

	£		£	
The value of exports from portions of cargoes which were actually landed at this port - -	69,000	{in 1892, against}	50,209	in 1891.
Value of exports of whole cargoes which merely touched at this port and proceeded in the same vessels -	11,673,579	{in 1892, against}	34,905,768	in 1891.
	11,742,579		34,955,977	„

viz.:—

To the United Kingdom	1,910,873	{in 1892, against}	5,705,751	in 1891.
„ British Colonies -	4,064,228	„	14,468,660	„
„ H.M.'s ships -	6,442	„	5,544	„
„ foreign countries -	5,761,036	„	14,776,022	„
	11,742,579		34,955 977	„

The shipping movements in the port during the last three years are as follows :—

Year.	Steamers.		Sailing Vessels.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
1889 - - -	4,298	5,099,734	1,322	108,720
1890 - - -	3,863	4,495,864	1,130	78,604
1891 - - -	3,286	3,988,397	1,410	106,348
	11,447	13,583,995	3,862	293,672
Average - -	3,816	4,527,998	1,287	97,891
1892 - -	2,430	3,023,244	1,134	90,100
Decrease - -	1,386	1,504,754	153	7,791

The following Table compares the actual arrivals in 1892 with those in 1891 :—

Year.	Steamers.		Sailing Vessels.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
1891 - - - -	3,286	3,988,397	1,410	106,348
1892 - - - -	2,430	3,023,244	1,134	90,100
Decrease - - -	856	965,153	276	16,248

Criminal Statistics.

The following is a statement of offences punishable under local laws, showing the number of cases and of persons brought before the courts by the police in 1892 :—

Offences.	No. of Cases.	No. of Persons.	Acquitted.	Condemned.
Crimes against public tranquility - -	141	183	18	165
„ affecting public credit - -	3	6	2	4
„ „ the good order of families -	64	83	15	68
„ against the person - - -	1,045	1,503	188	1,315
„ „ property - - -	312	420	81	339
Contempt of court - - - -	3	5	1	4
CONTRAVENTIONS.				
Affecting public order - - -	1,260	2,328	153	2,175
Against the person - - - -	295	386	51	335
„ property - - - -	197	334	35	299
OTHER CONTRAVENTIONS.				
Under special Ordinances - - -	1,101	1,757	35	299
POLICE LAWS.				
Contraventions - - - -	4,230	8,681	264	8,417
Total - - - - -	8,651	15,686	889	14,797

viz. :—

Maltese - - - - -	15,432
English - - - - -	173
Foreigners - - - -	81
Total - - -	15,686

The number of persons committed to prison in 1892 was as follows :—

Men - - - - -	5,465
Women - - - - -	897
Boys - - - - -	1,260
Girls - - - - -	26
Total - - -	7,648

Revenue.

The amount of revenue collected in the preceding year was 275,125*l.* 2*s.* 7½*d.* whilst the actual revenue from all sources received in 1892 amounted to 289,231*l.* 11*s.* 2¾*d.*; the revenue of 1892 exceeded, therefore, that of 1891 by 14,106*l.* 8*s.* 7½*d.*

This increase is chiefly due:—

(*a.*) to a larger amount of Customs receipts;
(*b.*) to a new source of revenue derived from the railway;
(*c.*) to the re-letting of Government urban tenements at a revaluation of rent;
(*d.*) to a new system of accounting for the recovery of the expenditure incurred for laying house services.

The estimated revenue for the year 1892 was 271,976*l.* and that actually collected was as above stated, 289,231*l.* 11*s.* 2¾*d.*, thus the receipts were in excess of the estimate by 17,255*l.* 11*s.* 2¾*d.*

The receipts derived from the Customs Department form the bulk of the revenue of this Colony; this source of revenue has for some years been steadily increasing, and it reached in the last three years the figures shown hereunder, viz.:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
1890 - - -	147,140	10	2
1891 - - -	155,085	11	1
1892 - - -	161,158	0	4

Expenditure.

During the year under review, it has been found desirable to rearrange the period of the financial year as regards expenditure, so as to make the period of the accounts both with regard to revenue and to expenditure to commence and end between the same dates (January 1 to December 31) the year of expenditure having previously been reckoned from December 1 of one year to November 30 of the following year. In consequence of this alteration an additional amount of expenditure for the 13th month of December has been brought to account, and hence the large apparent increase in the year's expenditure, particularly under Personal Emoluments. For the foregoing reasons comparison of the expenditure for 1892, as regards the true cost of any of the Establishments, with that of former years, would be difficult.

The provisions authorized for the year (including 17,350*l.* 7*s.* 6*d.* for the 13th month of December) amounted collectively to 329,291*l.* 15*s.* 4*d.* The actual expenditure reached the sum of 297,371*l.* 4*s.* 11¼*d.*, and this, compared with the revenue received, shows an excess over the latter of 8,139*l.* 13*s.* 8½*d.* The following figures show the progressive rate of the expenditure in the last three years:—

1890, 266,900*l.* 10*s.* 1½*d.*, whereof 97,476*l.* 7*s.* 11*d.* for personal emoluments.
1891, 281,870*l.* 13*s.* 5*d.*, whereof 103,984*l.* 15*s.* 2*d.* for personal emoluments.
1892 (13 months), 297,371*l.* 4*s.* 11¼*d.*, whereof 117,469*l.* 1*s.* 11*d.* for personal emoluments.

MALTA. 1892.

Independently of the extra charges for the additional month of expenditure, there has been an increase under this head for "Personal emoluments" attributable chiefly to two new establishments for which, for the first time in the year under review, provision has been taken, viz., the Railway Department and the Slaughter-house Department.

The expenditure on the Railway Department amounted during 1892 to 5,169*l.* 10*s.* 0¾*d.*, and that of the Slaughter-house concern to 1,036*l.* 8*s.* 1*d.* Both these Departments are, however, earning a revenue which, as regards the former, there is every reason to hope will, at no distant date, considerably develop, and as regards the latter, a large margin of profit is already being realized, in fact, in 1892 this profit amounted to 1,944*l.* 4*s.* 5½*d.*

The large spending Departments of this Colony are the following:—

The Police Department,
The Charitable Institutions,
The Education Department, and
The Public Works Department.

The actual cost of the Police Department, owing chiefly to the re-organization of the corps and to the numerical addition of officers and men, has been rising considerably during the last three years.

	£	*s.*	*d.*
In 1890 it was - - - - -	28,509	2	2
„ 1891 „ - - - - -	38,747	15	5
„ 1892 (including extra month of December) - -	43 635	11	9

Deducting the extra provision taken for December, amounting to 3,080*l.* 19*s.* 7*d.*, the cost for 1892 would, under ordinary circumstances, have been 40,554*l.* 5*s.* 2*d.*

The Charitable Institutions appear also to be a Department tending to increase its expenditure, owing to the large number of pauper inmates admitted into the respective hospitals and asylums, and to the rise in the market price of provisions. The building of the new asylum for the aged and sufferers from incurable diseases has been completed and opened, and the consequent change has caused some extra expenditure, which contributes also to the increased total cost for the year.

The comparison of the cost of the Charitable Institutions with the preceding two years is the following:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
In 1890 it was - - - - -	37,531	10	8
„ 1891 „ - - - - -	39,310	9	4
„ 1892 (including extra month of December.) - - -	43,521	13	2

If the provision taken for December (2,454*l.* 16*s.* 6*d.*) is deducted, the cost for 1892 would be 41,066*l.* 16*s.* 8*d.*

The growing want for the spread of instruction among the people and the consequent increase and development of the public schools carries with it a necessary augmentation of the expenditure of the educational establishments. The following figures show the yearly cost during the last three years:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
In 1890 - - - - -	18,722	13	11
„ 1891 - - - - -	19,602	6	4
„ 1892 (including extra month of December) - -	21,329	12	9

which latter sum, if the extra provision for December (1,730*l.* 14*s.* 3*d.*) is deducted, works out to 19,798*l.* 18*s.* 6*d.*

As regards the Public Works Department, although the provisions taken during the year for "Personal emoluments" and the expense of carrying out recurrent and extraordinary works reached no less a sum than 98,916*l.* 19*s.* 6*d.*, the actual expenditure amounted to only 76,271*l.* 3*s.* 3*d.*, which is less than that occurred in the two preceding years, as shown hereunder:—

	£.	*s.*	*d.*
1890 - - - - - - -	81,825	18	4
1891 - - - - - - -	83,381	15	6
1892 (including the 13th month for Personal emoluments only) - -	76,271	3	3

The important extraordinary works in progress in 1892 were:—

(1.) The new Ospizio for the aged and sufferers from incurable diseases;
(2.) The construction of a mole at Misida;
(3.) Excavation and construction of Grain "Fosse" at Floriana;
(4.) Construction of additional accommodation in the Lunatic Asylum; and
(5.) Erection of sheds on the Bridge Wharf at Porto Nuovo.

Civil Establishment.

Sir H. A. Smyth, K.C.M.G., Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the Colony, having been absent from the island from April 8 to April 24, and from July 30 to December 9, Major-General O. H. A. Nicholls, R.A., was appointed Deputy Governor to act in his stead.

Mr. Emilio de Petri was appointed to act as Chief Secretary to Government during my temporary absence from the island, from July 3 to September 23.

Mr. S. E. Magri, LL.D., acted as Superintendent of Police during the absence from this island of Capt. C. La Primaudaye, R.N., from January 30 to February 3, and from July 26 to October 6.

Securities of Public Officers.

The number of public officers giving security in 1892 was 44, as compared with that of the year 1891 amounting to 36.

This addition is due to certain officers of the new Department of the Railway having been called upon to give securities for the due discharge of their duties.

Legislation.

During 1892 nine Ordinances were passed, of which the following are the more important:—

Ordinance No. I., "To make provisions for the formation of a corps to be called 'The Malta Militia Division of Submarine Miners, Royal Engineers.'"

This Ordinance was rendered necessary as Ordinance No. I. of 1889 did not empower the Head of the Government to raise the corps above mentioned; it became necessary to have recourse to fresh legislation for the reason that the proposed division of Submarine Miners was intended to be entirely distinct from the Malta Militia.

Ordinance No. II. "To amend No. 36 of Article 307 of the Criminal Laws."

The acquisition on the part of the Government of Malta of the railway made an alteration in that provision of the Criminal Laws necessary in order to give power to the Head of the Government to issue regulations and byelaws concerning the management of the railway.

Ordinance No. III. "To transfer to Her Majesty's Commercial Court the jurisdiction exercised in these islands by the Vice-Admiralty Court."

The expediency of this enactment arose from the passing by the Imperial Parliament of the Colonial Courts of Admiralty Act, 1890, giving power to the Legislature of a British Possession to declare any of its courts of unlimited civil jurisdiction to be a Colonial Court of Admiralty.

Population.

The estimated population for 1892, as reported by the Police Department, was, on December 31, 166,889, being an increase of 836 over that of 1891 at the same date.

The births registered during the year numbered 6,578, a rate of 39·4 per 1,000 of the population; of this number 3,341 were males and 3,237 females.

5,742 deaths were registered, being in the proportion of 34·4 to each 1,000 of the estimated population, and showing an increase of 2,337.

Compared with the last ten years (excepting the year 1885, when a severe epidemic of measles caused an unprecedented infantile mortality, and had raised the rate of mortality to 35 per 1,000), there appears to be an increase in the number of deaths registered.

There can be no doubt that the ordinary climatic conditions of the Colony are very favourable to health; but the sanitary conditions are far from satisfactory; the drainage outside the fortified towns leaves much to be desired, and until the Council is prepared to provide the necessary funds for correcting this latter evil, sanitary measures on an insufficient scale cannot but fail to meet modern requirements.

The number of marriages registered during the year amounted to 1,086, showing a decrease, compared with the previous year, of 59, the rate being 6·5 against 6·7.

Savings Bank.

The number of depositors on December 31, 1892, was 6,073; the deposits during the year amounted to 113,243*l.* 16*s.* 4¾*d.*, and the withdrawals to 114,883*l.* 7*s.* 2*d.*

The total amount to the credit of depositors at the end of the year was 486,900*l.* 16*s.* 7¾*d.*

The funds invested amounted to 469,131*l.* 11*s.* 11*d.*

The interest on investments amounted to 12,939*l.* 19*s.* 8*d.*, and the interest credited to depositors and the expenses of management amounted to 7,661*l.* 13*s.* 8*d.*, leaving a balance of 5,278*l.* 6*s.* 0*d.*, which amount is transferred to Revenue Account as profit of the Savings Bank.

Monte di Pietà.

The assets of the Monte di Pietà were 120,664*l.* 14*s.* 2¼*d.*, and the liabilities 120,231*l.* 0*s.* 8½*d.*, showing an amount of 433*l.* 13*s.* 5¾*d.* as profit to be transferred to Revenue Account.

Education.

The primary schools at the end of the year under review were reported to be attended by 11,066 children; the schools of secondary instruction were attended by 643 scholars, and the University by 96.

Steps have been taken lately by the Government for erecting school buildings at Hamrun and Victoria, Gozo; the inadequacy, however, of the accommodation in other localities for the number of children whose parents seek to obtain education for them is still very marked.

The number of children who could not be admitted for want of accommodation in 1892 was reported to amount to not less than 5,073.

The amount collected under the head of fees, &c., from the University and Lyceum was 534*l.* 18*s.* 7*d.*, and the expenditure of the whole educational establishments amounted to 20,601*l.* 16*s.* 5*d.*

Shipping and Trade.

The arrivals of vessels in 1892 were 2,430 steamers and 1,134 sailing vessels, showing a decrease of 856 steamers and 276 sailing vessels when compared with the previous year.

The trade of Malta is largely dependent upon the number of vessels making use of the port; and it is apparent that this number has lately diminished considerably. It is believed that the depression of trade is due in a great measure to the general commercial stagnation elsewhere in Europe, to the restriction of business caused by apprehended danger, of the appearance of cholera and consequent quarantine restrictions.

There are also other causes which call for special notice:—The competition of the neighbouring ports of call of Gibraltar, Algiers, and Port Said has contributed to produce a decrease in the number of steamers which might have called at Malta, and the revenue derived from shipping and port dues has therefore decreased.

The rapid displacing of the older type of steamers running to the Black Sea and to the far east through the canal by new ships with triple expansion engines and with exceptional facilities for carrying coal for long voyages at a time when freights are low, is also a cause of the decline in the number of steamers callingat Malta.

Police and Crime.

The internal police force at the end of 1892 consisted of the following officers and men:—

1 Superintendent.
1 Senior assistant superintendent.
5 Assistant superintendents.
15 Inspectors.
24 1st class sergeants.
55 Sergeants.
305 Constables.

The Superintendent reports satisfactorily on the state of the police. The reorganization of the force can be considered to have thoroughly fulfilled the purposes which it was designed to achieve. Some difficulty still exists in obtaining recruits having a colloquial knowledge of English or Italian.

The number of cases reported to the police was 27,822, or 3,516 more than in 1891.

The number of cases in which arrests were made by the police during the year was 356, or 77 less than in the previous year.

The total number of offences reported to the magistrates by the police was 8,651, showing an increase of 691 cases in 1892 when compared with 1891.

Gaols and Prisons.

The total number of persons committed to prison during the year was 7,648, being 1,433 more than in 1891; of these 5,465 were males, 897 women, and 1,286 juveniles.

The committals were classified as follows:—

Six for debt, 429 for safe custody, and 7,213 for penal imprisonment.

Of the 7,648 committals, 5,418 were previously convicted as follows:—

1,942 once, 1,318 twice, and 2,156 three times.

The daily average was, in prison 279, on the sick list nine.

There were 42 admissions to the hospital during the year, and 3 deaths.

The total annual cost of the prison for the year was 3,912*l.* 5*s.* 11*d.* showing an increase of 592*l.* 7*s.* 2*d.* when compared with that of 1891. This increase is chiefly due to the higher cost of provisions, and to the unprecedented increase in the number of prisoners.

The estimated annual amount of the prisoners' earnings was in 1892 760*l.*, of which 210*l.* was in respect of the reclaiming of waste land and the produce of prisonlands.

The amount derived from the proceeds of work of prisoners and transferred to revenue was 184*l.* 4*s.* 7*d.*

Railway.

The Malta Railway was originally constructed by a private company at a cost of about 90,000*l.*, and it was opened in 1883. It is 7½ miles long and the gauge is one metre.

In 1890 the company had become unable to keep its trains running; the railway became the property of the Government in accordance with certain provisions in the original grant for its construction. A portion of the rolling stock seized by the creditors of the company was bought at auction on behalf of the Government. The permanent way and rolling stock were repaired with funds advance from the Immovable Property Account and the traffic was resumed on February 25, 1892.

The gross revenue from that date to December 31 was 3,750*l.* 19*s.* 10*d.*, and the working expenses amounted to 3,582*l.* 0*s.* 9½*d.* leaving a net profit of 168*l.* 19*s.* 0½*d.* The expenditure includes 428*l.* 11*s.* 9*d.* for interest and sinking fund on 14,653*l.* 8*s.* 8*d.* capital account chargeable to Government Immovable Property. Besides the working expenses as above shown, a sum of 1,641*l.* 9*s.* 2*d.* was expended from voted services in railway works on capital account. The number of passengers carried was 534,833. Of these 30,854 were 1st Class, 324,531 3rd class, and the remainder shows the number of passengers who travel by the workmen's trains. No 2nd class accommodation is provided.

I have, &c.

(Signed) G. STRICKLAND,
Chief Secretary to Government.

To His Excellency
Sir H. A. Smyth, K.C.M.G.,
Governor of Malta.

LONDON: Printed by EYRE and SPOTTISWOODE,
Printers to the Queen's most Excellent Majesty.
For Her Majesty's Stationery Office.

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COLONIAL REPORTS.—ANNUAL.

No. 114.

MALTA.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1893.

(For Report for 1892 *see* Colonial Report [Annual] No. 79.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
August 1894.

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89	Basutoland	1892–93
90	Ceylon	1892
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105	Bermuda	1893
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No.	Colony.	Subject.
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2	Zululand	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.

No. 114.

MALTA.

[For Report for 1892, *see* Colonial Report (Annual) No. 79.]

SIR A. J. L. FREMANTLE to the MARQUESS OF RIPON.

MY LORD, The Palace, Valletta, June 28, 1894.

I HAVE the honour to transmit, herewith, the Blue Book for 1893, with a covering report from the Chief Secretary to Government.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. J. LYON FREMANTLE,
Governor.

Chief Secretary's Office, Valletta,
June 24, 1894.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to submit the following report on the Blue Book for 1893:—

Revenue and Expenditure.

The actual revenue collected, from all sources, in the year 1893 amounted to 291,157*l.* 10*s.* 3½*d.*, as hereunder detailed:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Customs	159,842	4	6
Harbour and Quarantine Dues	11,476	3	2
Licences, Court Fines, &c.	5,455	3	6
Fees of court or office, payment for specific services, and reimbursements	19,819	6	3¼
Post Office	10,869	3	8
Railway	4,751	18	8
Water service	7,862	8	11
Rents (agricultural)	13,866	11	3¼
Rents (house property)	26,421	7	7¼
Rents on account of Charitable Foundations	4,108	9	9
Interest	26,684	12	11¾
Total	£291,157	10	3½

MALTA. 1893.

The amount of Revenue of the preceding year (1892) was 289,231*l.* 11*s.* 2¾*d.* The total revenue of 1893 exceeded that of the preceding year by 1,925*l.* 19*s.* 0¾*d.*

The estimated revenue for the year was 282,407*l.*; the actual receipts, amounting, as already stated, to 291,157*l.* 10*s.* 3½*d.*, have therefore exceeded the estimate by 8,750*l.* 10*s.* 3½*d.*

The increase in the Revenue is chiefly due to larger receipts from:—

a. Harbour and Quarantine Dues.
b. Post Office.
c. Railway.
d. Water Service.
e. Urban Property.
f. Interest.

On the other hand, there was a decrease of Revenue under the following heads, viz.:—

a. Customs.
b. Licence and Court fees, &c.
c. Fees and reimbursements.
d. Rents (agricultural).

The receipts derived from the Customs Department (which form the main source of the revenue of Malta) did not increase as in former years, but diminished in 1893 to the extent of 1,315*l.* 15*s.* 10*d.* This decrease was caused by a reduction in importation of cattle, due in part to the prohibition of the entry of cattle from some ordinary sources of importation which were affected during the year with cattle disease. Moreover, a smaller quantity of wine was issued from bond for local consumption. The latter feature may be explained by the circumstance that in the two previous years a quantity of wine larger than usual had been imported from Sicily and elsewhere and kept in stock in private stores, owing to the abnormally abundant vintage, and the consequent low price of wine; and also, possibly, to the growth of the local demand, on the part of the lower classes, for spirits and beer in preference to common wine.

But while the Customs revenue has suffered a diminution, the Harbour and Quarantine receipts have yielded a revenue in excess of that estimated, and greater than that of the two previous years, as shown hereunder:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
In 1891 - - - -	10,784	11	0
In 1892 - - - -	8,608	8	6
In 1893 - - - -	11,476	3	2

The rise is chiefly to be attributed to the increase in Dues collected under the Quarantine Regulations. It is noteworthy that, notwithstanding the prevalence of strict quarantine

restrictions, the Tonnage Dues have yielded an increase of revenue compared with the previous year, and that a larger number of steamers have visited our harbours. It is further argued that this circumstance may tend to dispel some apprehensions that were entertained that the trade of the harbours of Valletta was on the decline, and that former severe quarantine restrictions had caused irreparable damage.

The Post Office continued to show a tendency to earn an increased revenue. The increase of 125*l.* 5*s.* 2*d.* during 1893 is chiefly due to profit on commissions on money orders and on parcels posted outwards.

Expenditure.

It should be noted, before analysing the expenditure of the year 1893 and comparing the same with that of former years, that in the year before the one under review, the expenditure comprised a period of thirteen months (1st December 1891 to 31st December 1892), and that, therefore, the comparison between 1893 with the previous year cannot be on an equal basis.

The provision voted for the expenditure of the year 1893 amounted to 345,933*l.* 5*s.* 6*d.* The actual expenditure reached the sum of 304,992*l.* 13*s.* 0*d.*, as follows:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Charges on account of Interest and Burthens	18,434	12	9½
Pensions	16,574	15	0
The Governor and Legislature	4,601	16	8
Chief Secretary's Department	4,351	12	11
Receiver-General and Director of Departments Contracts	2,621	10	9
Customs and Port Department	10,217	9	3
Audit Department	1,385	9	7
Printing office	1,282	9	3
Railway Department	5,234	12	0
Legal Departments	18,421	2	6
Police	39,392	19	4½
Prisons	3,785	3	3
Charitable Institutions, including Monte di Pietà	41,015	16	9
Education	20,369	15	2
Post Office	11,122	6	5
Ecclesiastical Expenditure	1,436	14	5
Military Expenditure	5,000	0	0
Miscellaneous Services	13,385	12	3
Superintendent of Works Department	6,705	6	2
Public Works Recurrent	60,711	11	1½
Public Works Extraordinary	18,941	17	4½
	£304,992	13	0

MALTA. 1893.

In comparing the total expenditure with the revenue received (291,157*l.* 10*s.*, 3½*d.*), the former shows an excess on the latter of 13,835*l.* 2*s.* 8½*d.*, which excess was met by the balance carried forward from 1892. The following figures show the progressive rate of expenditure for the last three years:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
In 1891 - - - -	281,870	13	5
In 1892 (13 months) - -	297,371	4	11¼
In 1893 - - - -	304,992	13	0

The Heads of Service under which increased expenditure was incurred in 1893, and the reasons for such increase are chiefly the following;—

a. "Interest and Burthens," due to the interest payable on Savings Bank Account for sums advanced as a loan to the Monte di Pietà; and to a new burthen payable in accordance with a judgment of the Court of Appeal.

b. "Pensions."—The increase of expenditure is owing to the final adjustment of the pensions of Policemen of the Old Force, under Ordinance V. of 1893.

c. "Post Office," due chiefly to increase of Office Staff, and to the additional cost of the Mail Services with the Continent.

d "Miscellaneous."—The increase of expenditure is owing chiefly to the erection and installation of a Technical School in connection with the Railway; to necessary improvements in the Lazaretto; and to the cost of extraordinary sanitary measures, and to the augmentation of the provision for refund of duties on account of supplies for the Army and Navy.

e. "Public Works Recurrent."—The increase under this head is chiefly for greater expenditure incurred for repairs, and expenditure in the up-keep of Public Offices, in Buildings of the Charitable Institution, in the maintenance and repairs of urban and rural tenements, in the maintenance of streets and roads, and in the Water Supply and Drainage:

f. "Public Works Extraordinary."—The additional expenditure in 1893 was incurred for the enlargement of St. Clement Water Service Reservoir, for the completion of the Infirmary for Female Patients in the Lunatic Asylum, in the construction of a prison for women, for the extension of the Water Supply, and in reconstruction, grading, and widening roads.

The large spending Departments of the Government are:—

The Police Department, now including the Sanitary Office and the Public Slaughter House,
The Charitable Institutions,

The Educational Department,
The Public Works Department: including Drainage and Water Supply.

The actual cost of the Police Department and of its sub-Departments has this year (1893) amounted to 39,392*l.* 19*s.* 4½*d.* In the last three years it was as follows:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
In 1891 - - - - - -	38,747	15	5
In 1892 (13 months) - - - -	43,635	11	9
In 1893 - - - - - -	39,392	19	4½

The chief cause of the additional expenditure has been an increase in the number of the Marine Police, who replace health guards, formerly employed, when required, casually, on wages from day to day; the additional expenditure incurred to provide sanitation, in view of the existence of cholera in neighbouring countries; and expenditure connected with the slaughter houses.

The Charitable Institutions absorbed about one-seventh of the whole of the public revenue, and cost during the year 1893, 41,015*l.* 16*s.* 9*d.* The number of inmates in all the hospitals has this year been very large. The comparison of the cost of the Government charities in 1893 with the preceding years is as follows:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
In 1891 - - -	39,310	9	4
In 1892 (13 months) - -	43,521	13	2
In 1893 - - -	41,015	16	9

With regard to the Educational Department, its expenditure during the year was 20,369*l.* 15*s.* 2*d.* In the previous two years the amount expended was as follows:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
In 1891 - - -	19,602	6	4
In 1892 (13 months) - -	21,329	12	9
In 1893 - - -	20,369	15	2

It may be noted that this expenditure tends to increase with the growing demand for public gratuitous instruction. New Technical School Buildings have been equipped at a cost of 428*l.* 19*s.* 11*d.*; and the whole cost of the almost self-supporting secondary school for girls has been brought to account as an itme of expenditure, carrying at the same time to revenue the fees, 264*l.* 9*s.* 8*d.*, received in reimbursement of the expense. In the Lyceum and in the University the fees payable by students are disproportionately low.

The cost of the Public Works Department, staff and other charges, under the same head during the year under review was 6,705*l.* 6*s.* 2*d.* against 7,159*l.* 1*s.* 11*d.* in the previous year. The

provisions taken for Recurrent and Extraordinary works were in 1893 as follows :—

	£	s.	d.
Recurrent - - - -	76,201	18	4
Extraordinary - - - -	34,297	15	1
giving a total of - -	£110,499	13	5

The actual expenditure, however, amounted only to 79,653*l.* 8*s.* 6*d.*, viz. :—

	£	s.	d.
Recurrent - - - -	60,711	11	1½
Extraordinary - - - -	18,941	17	4½

From above figures, it will be seen that a sum, 30,846*l.* 4*s.* 11*d.*, remained unexpended on 31st December 1893, owing to strict economy in some works, to the non-execution of certain works, and to the non-completion of other works, for the whole of which provision had been voted in the estimate.

The following were the important extraordinary works in progress for which provision was voted in 1893 :—

	£	s.	d.
1. Excavation of grain "Fosse" (stores) -	1,104	8	7
2. Construction of additional accommodations and appliances for the Lunatic Asylums	1,766	10	6
3. Paving and improving certain streets in the towns, in the country districts of, and in, Gozo - - -	9,446	0	0
4. Enlarging St. Clement water reservoir	2,500	0	0
5. Additional wing to Corradino prison for female prisoners. - - -	1,998	5	9
6. Extension of the water supply - -	4,779	9	1
Total - - -	£21,594	11	11

Upon these works the actual expenditure incurred during the year has been :—

	£	s.	d.
1. Excavation of grain "Fosse" (stores) -	606	14	3
2. Lunatic Asylum - - -	1,104	15	3
3. Reconstruction of streets and roads -	5,789	15	10½
4. St. Clement reservoir - - -	1,235	13	5½
5. New wing, Corradino prison - -	1,998	11	1
6. Water supply - - - -	2,578	13	1
Total - - -	£13,314	3	8

In this year the practice of purchasing materials and stores by the Works Department out of advances made from the Treasury under the Store Suspense Account was discontinued, and the cost of such stores are now paid out of, and charged direct to, the specific votes for which they are required. This alteration in the mode of accounting is expected to be conducive to greater economy, and it will afford greater facilities in the checking of the accounts of expenditure of the Public Works Department by the Auditor-General.

Public Works.

The most important Public Works in 1893 have been the completion of additional accommodation for the storing of wheat, 606*l.* 14*s.* 3*d.*; the extension of the wards of the Lunatic Asylum at a cost of 1,104*l.* 15*s.* 3*d.*; the reconstruction of streets and roads, 5,789*l.* 15*s.* 10½*d.*; the erection of a new wing to the Civil Prison for the accommodation of female prisoners, 1,998*l.* 11*s.* 9*d.*; the building of a new service reservoir for the supply of the Cottonera District, 1,235*l.* 13*s.* 5½*d.*; and the extension of the water supply, 2,578*l.* 13*s.* 1*d.*

Civil Establishments.

During the temporary absence of the Governor, Major-General C. B. Knowles, C.B. was appointed as Deputy-Governor, from 5th to 17th April, and from 25th July to the 8th September.

On the 30th December, Major-General Knowles assumed the administration of the Government on the departure from Malta of His Excellency General Sir H. A. Smyth, K.C.M.G.

Sir Joseph Carbone, K.C.M.G., LL.D., acted as Chief Secretary to Government during my absence from these Islands, from 5th August to 3rd November.

On my assuming the duties of my office, Sir Joseph Carbone was relieved from the ordinary duties of his Office of Crown Advocate for the purpose of undertaking special duties in connection with the hearing before the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council of a Special Reference on questions concerning the Marriage Law in Malta.

Legislation.

The following are the most important enactments passed during the Session of 1893:—

Ordinance No. I.

"To amend Ordinance No. VII. of 1886."

This Ordinance, promulgated in January 1893, makes some provisions in regard to the manner of holding elections. It

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is remarkable inasmuch as it cancels the provision, previously in force, for the appointment of Trust Commissioners to mark the votes of illiterate voters in certain cases, and provides that any of the electors may appoint some person to vote, by proxy, for him, provided such agent be related to the person entitled to a vote within certain specified degrees of relationship.

Ordinance No. II.

"To make some provisions with respect to the compulsory retirement of, and the grant of pensions and gratuities to, the members of the Police Force, in certain cases, and to amend Ordnance No. IX. of 1885 and No. V. of 1888."

The object of this Ordinance is principally to give effect to certain recommendations contained in a report of the Police Committee dated 15th October 1889, and to proposals made by the Police Board for facilitating the retirement of inefficient policemen in connection with the re-organization of the force.

By Article 6 of this Ordinance power is given to the Governor to order the separation of the Marine Police from the rest of the force, and to place the Collector of Customs at the head of the Marine Police thus separated.

Article 7 gives power to the superintendent to enforce the attendance of witnesses in case of inquiries on complaints made against members of the force.

Article 8 deals with the "Police Reward Fund" contemplated in Ordinance IX. of 1885, and a "Relief Fund" which is raised by periodical contributions of an Association among the members of the Police Force.

The object of this fund is to assist the men when in financial difficulties, by a system of loans, and by gratuities when awaiting the approval of their pensions; and to make some provisions for their families on the death of contributors to the fund.

Ordinance No. III.

'To amend Ordinance No. IX. of 1888."

This Ordinance was framed in consequence of the representations of the Chief Government Medical Officer respecting the importation of butchered meat. This trade also affected the revenue, inasmuch as the import duly could only be levied on live stock.

Ordinance No. V.

"To encourage inventions and improvements in mechanical contrivances and processes of industrial manufacture."

This enactment gives effect to certain recommendations of the Board of Trade on Ordinance No. XIII. of 1889, concerning Articles 3, 4, and 8, of that Ordinance.

Article 3 was amended in the sense of giving discretionary power to the Government to fix the amount of fees payable in respect to applications and grants of patents, not to exceed, however, the amount fixed in the schedule annexed to the Ordinance.

Article 4 lays down the circumstances under which a patent is to cease.

Article 8 has been amended on the lines of section 103 of the Patent Act of 1883, as amended by 48 & 49 Vict. Ch. 63, and it has been so modified in order to include persons who may have applied for protection of an invention in the United Kingdom or in any British Possession, as well as persons who may have applied for protection in any Foreign State with which Her Majesty has made an agreement for the mutual protection of inventions.

Ordinance No. VII.

"For checking the spread of the disease commonly known as Leprosy."

Prior to 1883, several reports reached this Government to the effect that many cases of leprosy were known to exist in the Colony, and that the disease was on the increase.

A Committee composed of the Members of the Medical Board was appointed in that year to inquire into, and report upon, the existence and nature of the disease.

The Committee presented their report on the 5th November 1886, and the same was communicated to the Council. An Ordinance was then submitted and passed with some slight amendments, and assented to and proclaimed on the 6th March.

Although the Ordinance has been promulgated, it cannot be put in force until proper provision has been made for a suitable Asylum and for the care and maintenance of the lepers.

Ordinance No. VIII.

"To make some provisions in order to better repress the sale of foreign lottery tickets."

The necessity of this Ordinance originated in the comparatively large sums of money which annually find their way out of these Islands for the purchase of tickets of Foreign lotteries, such as the Italian and German lotteries.

Ordinance No. IX.

"To authorise the Head of the Government, in certain cases, to raise Military forces by voluntary enlistment."

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This Ordinance has for its object to give a recognised Military status to men forming the crews of boats and other vessels which would be employed in time of war under the General Officer Commanding at this Station for patrolling and other purposes, and in order to secure to the crews, in certain eventualities, the right to be treated as belligerents.

Ordinance No. XI.

"To amend the tariff of Notarial Fees annexed to Ordinance No. V. of 1855."

During the Governorship of Sir L. Simmons, a Commission was appointed to inquire into, and report upon, repeated representations made to Government by the Members of the Notarial Profession as to the insufficiency of their fees, as established by Law, the former tariff having been enacted so far back as January 1856.

After that Commission had presented their report, the Elected Members of the Council on several occasions urged the Government to bring forward a Law improving the scale of fees which Notaries are by Law entitled to receive.

Ordinance No XII.

"To amend and consolidate the Laws relating to the Post Office, and to make provision respecting the Postal Service."

This enactment originated in the advisability of consolidating in one Ordinance the several legislative provisions contained in Ordinances No. II. of 1877, No. II. of 1884, No. III. of 1889, and No. IX. of 1891.

Almost all the Articles of this Ordinance, saving slight modifications, were passed by the Council, but three paragraphs (2, 3, and 4 of Article 8) were negatived by the majority of the Elected Members. These paragraphs extended the prohibition to carry, receive, collect, or deliver letters otherwise than by officials of the Post Office.

The amendment, as passed by the Council, is in opposition to the principle that the Post Office should have the exclusive privilege of carrying all letters for the benefit of the Public Revenue, and is also in conflict with the provisions contained in Imperial Acts.

A new provision is contained in Article 35, whereby the Head of the Government is authorised to offer any sum not exceeding £4,400 a year to any person who shall bind himself for such sum and for a period of years not exceeding twelve years, to convey such mails as may be delivered to him by the Postmaster-General, from Malta to a Port in the Kingdom of Italy, and *vice versa*.

Ordinance No. XIII.

"To apply some of the provisions contained in Ordinance No. II. of 1893 to Members of the Police Force discharged previously to the promulgation of that Ordinance."

This Ordinance was rendered necessary to give a retrospective effect to some of the provisions of Ordinance No. II. of 1893, with a view to legalising the grant of pensions to the Constables who had to retire in 1890 at the scale authorized under the latter Ordinance.

Ordinance No. XV.

"To obtain certain statistical information respecting the trade of the Island of Malta and its Dependencies."

Articles 1, 2, 5, 8, 11, 12, 14, 18, and 19, of this Ordinance, the form of oath and the Schedules annexed thereto, were passed as originally proposed, and Articles 6, 7, and 15, referring to the way of establishing the value of the goods imported in certain cases, and to the power of the Head of the Government to alter any forms annexed to this Ordinance, were negatived.

Amendments were proposed by the Representative of the fifth District and were agreed to. The first amendment refers to Article 3, and is intended to enable the importers of goods to make the declaration of the value of goods in such a way as to render it accessible only to the officials of the Customs Department.

The second amendment refers to Article 4, and is to the effect of enabling the importer to declare the value the goods had at the place of importation.

The third amendment refers to Article 9 of the Draft Ordinance and is intended to exonerate the captain of a merchant ship from declaring in the manifest of exportation the place of origin of certain goods so exported.

The fourth amendment tends to enable all steam ships to clear out before delivering the manifest of exportation, provided there be in these Islands a responsible person who undertakes to furnish the above document to the collector of customs.

The fifth amendment tends to do away with the differential award of punishments to individuals contravening this Ordinance, and for applying in this case the ordinary law protecting duties to be levied by the Customs Department.

Ordinance No. XVII.

"To amend the Police Laws."

This Draft Ordinance was introduced by the Representative of the Fifth District, and passed by the Council of Government.

His Excellency the Governor reserved the same for the signification of Her Majesty's Pleasure thereon.

By a provision of the Police Laws now in force, and which would be repealed if Article 11a of the Ordinance had not been suppressed, an appeal is permitted to the Medical Board from any order of the Sanitary Authority, and the decision of the board is final.

Population.

The estimated population of the Islands on 31st December 1892 was 166,889. The normal increase during 1893, as represented by the excess of births over deaths, was 1,216.

The population may therefore be estimated at 168,105 on the 31st December, 1893.

The total number of births was 6,419, of these 3,314 were males and 3,105 were females, being at the rate of 1,067 males to every 1,000 females.

The number of marriages in 1893 was 1067, an actual decrease on the marriages in 1892 of 19, notwithstanding that the population at the close of the year was 1,216 persons or 7 per cent greater than at the close of the previous year. If the state of trade and local prosperity were to be tested by the fluctuations in the number of marriages, it would appear that there was a greater degree of of prosperity in 1892 than in 1893.

The deaths registered in 1893 amounted to 5,203, a decrease on the number of 1892 of 539, the death-rate having fallen from 34·4 per 1,000 of the population in 1892 to 30·9 in 1893.

Of the deaths, 2,640 were of males, and 2,563 of females. These figures, upon the estimated number of each sex living during the year, amount to 31·84 per 1,000 of the male population, and 30·07 per 1,000 of the female population; so that 103 males died to every 100 females.

The public health during the year was not all that could be desired, owing to the prevalence of enteric fever, but notwithstanding this, the death-rate for the year compares favourably with that of the preceding year.

Education.

The following notes on the progress of education during the year have been extracted from the Annual Report of the Vice-Chancellor of the Universities.

The attendance, behaviour, and progress of the pupils leave little to be desired, and offer evidence of natural ability, diligence, and docility.

Increased accommodation in the Elementary Schools has been effected.

The addition of three night schools indicates further progress in the direction of national education, and the establishment of a school of manual industry, together with the course of practical mechanics

to be shortly commenced at the Hamrum Railway Station, cannot fail to be of great value in promoting local industry.

The percentage of attendance in the Elementary Schools appears satisfactory. The fact that so many as 80 per cent. of children should be willing to present themselves for instruction, is sufficient indication of the popular desire for education.

The returns in the last Census prove that the percentage of progress of education in English and in Italian was much higher than the percentage of the increase in the population in the previous decennial period. In 1881, that rate was 16·5 per cent., and in 1891, 11·87, showing an increment of 25 per cent. in the number of persons possessing some knowledge of English and Italian, as against an increase of 10·18 per cent. in the growth of the population.

The cost per head of the children in the Elementary Schools varies considerably; this circumstance is due to the number of pupils each school could accommodate. The marked difference illustrates the relative economy of large schools, and suggests the desirability of gradually increasing existing schools up to the full limit of the local demand.

The expenditure in respect to the Educational Department was, in 1893, as follows:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
University - - -	3,097	9	0
Lyceum - - -	2,478	3	11
Secondary School, Gozo -	235	0	0
Total	£5,810	12	11
Elementary Schools - -	£11,852	19	5

The cost per head at the various Institutions was as follows:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*	
University - - -	32	5	2½	per head.
Lyceum - - -	5	11	10¼	„
Secondary School, Gozo -	5	0	0	„
Elementary Schools - -	1	2	0	„

Shipping.

The number of steam vessels which entered at port in this Island during 1893, was 2,670, with a tonnage of 3,381,380; and the number of sailing vessels which entered was 1,161 with a tonnage of 90,905.

The corresponding arrivals in the preceding year were 2,430 steam vessels with a tonnage of 3,023,244; and 1,134 sailing vessels with a tonnage of 90,100.

The arrivals of 1893 show an increase of 240 steamers and 358,136 tons, and also an increase of 47 sailing vessels and 805 tons, over 1892.

There has been a corresponding increase of 589*l.* 5*s.* 6*d.* in the revenue received in the Customs Department in 1893 under heads

"Port Dues and Tonnage Dues," which amounted to 8,065*l.* 6*s.* 0*d.*, and this notwithstanding the restrictions put upon trade by the quarantine regulations during a great part of the year.

The depression of trade is probably due to the keen competition of Algiers, Port Said and Gibraltar as coaling depôts, to which allusion has already been made in former reports.

Currency.

The maximum rate of exchange with London during the past year was:—

On demand 10*s.* per 100*l.*
At three days' sight 8*s.* per 100*l.*
At 30 days' sight 5*s.* per 100*l.*
At 60 days' sight 2*s.* 6*d.* per 100*l.*
90 days' sight at par.

There are three Banking Companies doing business in Malta, viz.: "the Banco di Malta," "the Anglo-Maltese Bank" and "the Anglo-Egyptian Bank." There are besides several important private Banks.

The amount of money in circulation is estimated at 405,000*l.*, and the circulation of notes of the former Banks at 30,000*l.*

The Government and the Commercial community keep accounts in sterling. A few merchants, however, of the Marina and Casals still continue to keep their accounts according to the old style in Scudi, Tari, and Grains.

The Maltese coins were demonetized in November 1886.

Agriculture.

A Committee was appointed to check the spread of the vine disease (*Peronospera*) and its labours appear to have met with considerable success.

The exportation of local produce was very limited in 1893, and this is ascribed to the low prices of agricultural produce in England and France and to the effect of protective duties in France.

The rate of wages has, however, remained practically unchanged and there was ample employment open to any man who was able and willing to work.

Fortunately the Colony is not dependent on the products of the soil.

The Naval and Military Establishments annually put large sums of money in circulation; moreover, during the winter months considerable profits are derived from supplying the wants of a considerable number of passengers who annually visit these Islands. The agricultural depression does not, therefore, affect the general prosperity of the Colony so seriously as it otherwise would do.

Gaols and Prisons.

The total number of prisoners committed was 73,357, showing a decrease on 1892 of 291 prisoners

The Corradino Prison is on the mixed cellular system as regards criminal wards; it has 212 separate cells and five wards.

The kind of labour demanded in the prison is building, stone-cutting, carpentering, glazing, shoemaking, painting, whitewashing, tailoring, basket, mat and broom making, gardening and field labour; and the profits of the labour of prisoners are lodged in the Colonial Treasury.

The total annual cost of the Prison during the year amounted to 1,455*l.* 7*s.* 3*d.* "personal emoluments," and 2,166*l.* 2*s.* 1*d.* "other charges," against 890*l.* the amount of prisoners earnings during the same year.

Religious services are regularly performed for the benefit of the prisoners by a Roman Catholic chaplain, and by three visiting chaplains, one of the Church of England, one Presbyterian and one Wesleyan.

Criminal Statistics.

The number of offences reported to the police during 1893 was 8,956, an increase of 305 over the number reported in 1892.

The number of persons brought before the Magistrates was 16,245 as compared with 15,686 in the previous year. The cases were disposed of as follows:—

Convicted - - - -	15,401
Acquitted - - - -	844
	16,245

The total number of summary convictions in the Magistrates' Courts was 15,206, against 14,626 in 1892, viz.:—

Offences against the person - - -	1,675
Injuries to property - - - -	557
Offences against the good order of families -	21
Other offences - - - - -	12,953
	15,206

The total number of cases tried in Her Majesty's Criminal Court was 195, an increase of 19 over the cases in 1892. There was an increase in the number of trials for murder, there having been only one conviction of this crime in 1892, as compared with five in 1893. Some of these trials related to crimes that had escaped detection for years.

In 1893 there was only one conviction of manslaughter.

General Remarks.

The general trade of the Colony during 1893 may be said to have suffered severely from stagnation. Important steps were taken by

the Government in the direction of advancing the prosperity of the Island, and mitigating the incidence in Malta of the general depression of trade in other countries.

A daily mail service, subsidized from the Island Revenue and worked with the best steamers owned in Malta that happened to be available, has been established between Malta and Syracuse. It has proved of considerable convenience to the business community, and to the numerous class who visit the island in the winter; but an increase in the subsidy appears necessary before the Government can hope to obtain the services of steamers of the class and speed required by the passenger service.

That tenders should be invited for the lighting of Valletta and suburbs by electric light was conditionally decided upon by the Council of Government at the end of the Session of 1893.

The last important step in the re-organization of the new Police Force by the separation of the Marine Police, now under the Customs Department, from the Internal Police, received final effect by a Government Notice, No. 58, of the 20th March 1893.

The position for which Malta has for long been conspicuously peculiar, in not having passed legislation providing for the compilation of trade statistics, appeared to have been remedied to some extent in 1893. This step in legislation seemed to indicate a willingness to join in the way of modern ideas of commercial progress; but this mild measure, before and after it was proposed and passed, was the subject of the strongest organized opposition in the name of the main body of the commercial community, for reasons which it is very difficult to bring to light, but which appear to involve strong vested interests.

The popularity of the railway, as managed by the Government on co-operative principles, has continued to increase to a marked extent; the permanent way has been considerably improved; additional station accommodation has been provided, and a new workshop erected.

The profit, after making full provision for interest and sinking fund on the sums provided from the Immovable Property Account for the repair of the line, has been nominal.

Mr. L. Gatt, C.E., the Acting Manager of the railway, was authorised to proceed to England for a period of two months, in order to gain practical experience in the management of railways.

The quarantine measures adopted, on the advice of the Board of Health, seem to have usefully contributed in 1893 in preventing the appearance of cholera in the Island.

At the same time, these measures do not appear to have given rise to so much inconvenience or cause of complaint as in past years. Nevertheless, the requirements of trade, and the facilities demanded by shipping touching at Malta, tend to call for the progressive elimination of all quarantine. A system of frequent telegraphic correspondence with British Consuls around the Mediterranean has been of service in facilitating the attempts at constant compromise required from the Board of Health.

Towards the end of the year hopes began to be realized that the number of ships calling at this port was about to be again on the increase.

The vote of 1,000*l.* passed by the Council of Government for giving effect to additional sanitary precautions against the introduction of cholera led to the appointment of additional sanitary inspectors and to further reforms in matters bearing on public hygiene.

A joint Civil and Naval Committee, composed of the Admiral-Superintendent, the Chief Secretary to Government, the Collector of Customs and Superintendent of the Ports, three elected Members of the Council of Government, the Superintending Civil Engineer of the Dockyard, and the secretary to the Admiral-Superintendent, was appointed to report upon various claims to rights of water and wharfage in the harbour, which had been a cause of embarrassing uncertainty for many years. The Committee agreed to a report which was confirmed by a Resolution of the Council on 2nd August 1893. Many difficult questions of long standing were thus permanently settled.

The sanitary condition of the harbours appears to have been much improved by the embanking and dredging operations which have been carried out by the Civil and by the Imperial Authorities, and the complaints, previously common, in regard to the presence of stagnant, shallow water appear to have been left with little or no foundation. Steps have been taken to commence the construction of a Civil and Military Slaughter House on a site which will not drain into the harbour.

From a general point of view, considerable progress has been apparent in the standard of political feeling, inasmuch as both in the Council of Gov[illegible]ent and in the Press, the discussion of administrative questions has tended to become more expeditious and less connected with partisan considerations.

I have, &c.

(Signed) G. STRICKLAND,
Chief Secretary to Government.

To His Excellency
General Sir Arthur J. Lyon Fremantle, K.C.M.G., C.B.,
Governor and Commander-in-Chief.

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MALTA.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1894.

(For Report for 1893, *see* Colonial Report [Annual] No. 114.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
15 *August* 1895.

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COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other, reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained for a few pence from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
110	Bahamas	1893
111	Turks and Caicos Islands	"
112	Leeward Islands	"
113	Barbados	"
114	Malta	"
115	Zululand	"
116	British Honduras	"
117	Trinidad and Tobago	"
118	Faikland Islands	"
119	Rodrigues	"
120	Mauritius	"
121	Straits Settlements	"
122	Labuan	"
123	Basutoland	"
124	St. Lucia	1893–94
125	St. Helena	1893
126	Ceylon	"
127	Fiji	"
128	Grenada	"
129	Sierra Leone	"
130	British Bechuanaland	"
131	British New Guinea	1893–94
132	Lagos	1892-3 & 1893–94
133	British Guiana	1893
134	Jamaica	1893–94
135	Newfoundland	"
136	Gold Coast	1893
137	Zululand	"
138	Bermuda	1894
139	Bahamas	"
140	Barbados	"
141	Turks and Caicos Islands	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada	Emigration.

No. 142.

MALTA.

[For Report for 1893, *see* Colonial Report (Annual) No. 114.]

SIR A. J. LYON FREMANTLE to the MARQUESS OF RIPON.

MY LORD, The Palace, Valetta, June 8, 1895.

I HAVE the honour to forward, herewith, for the information of your Lordship, the Chief Secretary's Report on the Blue Book for the year 1894.

I have, &c.

ARTHUR J. LYON FREMANTLE,

Governor.

Chief Secretary's Office, Valetta,

SIR, June 4, 1895.

I HAVE the honour to submit to your Excellency the following report on the Malta Blue Book for the year 1894:—

Finance.

The public revenue for the year was 301,858*l.* 13*s.* 9¼*d.*, and the expenditure 291,682*l.* 2*s.* 4*d.*; the excess of revenue over expenditure was, therefore, 10,176*l.* 11*s.* 5¼*d.* Compared with 1893, the rev nue shows an increase of 10,701*l.* 3*s.* 5¾*d.*, and the expenditure a decrease of 13,310*l.* 10*s.* 8*d.*

Revenue.

The amounts collected from all sources, in 1894, are classified as follows :—

	£	s.	d.
Customs - - - -	168,086	19	5
Harbour and Quarantine Dues -	9,522	8	9
Licences, Court Fines, &c. - -	5,849	9	9¾
Fees of court or office, payment for specific services, and reimbursements	22,142	3	11
Post Office - - - -	11,685	1	11
Railway - - - -	5,603	17	0
Water service - - -	7,626	18	10½
Rents (rural) - - -	13,496	16	1¼
Rents (urban) - - -	27,429	3	0¾
Rents on account of Charitable Foundations - - - -	3,991	10	10
Interest - - - -	26,424	4	1
Total - - -	£301,858	13	9¼

The increase in the Revenue is chiefly due to larger receipts from :—

a. Customs.
b. Licences and Court fines.
c. Fees and reimbursements.
d. Post Office.
e. Railway.
f. Rents of house property.

On the other hand, there was a decrease of Revenue under the following heads, viz.,—

a. Harbour and Quarantine Dues.
b. Water Service.
c. Rural rents.
d. Rural rents on account of charitable foundations.
e. Interest.

It is gratifying to observe that the Customs revenue, which in 1893 had somewhat fallen, again resumed, in 1894, its progressive elasticity. There can be no doubt that, so long as the population continues to increase and the Garrison and Fleet are kept up to their present strength, the revenue from Customs, which is the most important one in this Colony, will undergo no substantial reduction, but will more probably tend to expand.

The increase of the receipts under head "Licences and Court Fines" was obtained from the larger amount of Court Fines adjudged in the Courts of Judicial Police, in the Gozo Courts and the Syndic's courts, as a result of the larger number of cases which came before those courts. It is to be noted, however, that the revenue from Licences was somewhat less than that of the

preceding year, owing to a falling off in the number of licences to carry a gun.

As regards the head of revenue under "Fees and Reimbursements," an increase in the receipts over those of the preceding year was realised, chiefly by a larger amount of fees for the treatment of paying patients in the hospitals, of fees payable in courts of justice, abattoir fees, sale of badges, and by a new source of revenue accrued from the performance of services connected with sanitation, and sales from the Botanic Garden. Of the above, the revenue from abattoir fees is that which, being created recently, calls for more particular attention. The Slaughter House became a Government concern in 1891; and it is a matter of satisfaction to observe that, setting aside all other advantages, the undertaking is organised so as to be financially remunerative, the concern being more than self-supporting. The following figures show its revenue and expenditure for the last three years:—

	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
In 1892 - - - - -	2,979 12 5½	1,036 8 1
In 1893 - - - - -	2,806 9 10	1,093 2 3
In 1894 - - - - -	3,060 4 6	1,174 8 11

The Post Office realized an increase of revenue over that of the preceding year to the amount of 815*l.* 18*s.* 3*d.* This increase appears to have been brought about by the running of a daily mail between Malta and Syracuse on account of the Government, which caused a larger despatch of correspondence and consequent larger sale of stamps. The international transit rates received by the Post Office have likewise shown a tendency to expand.

The progressive increment of the Postal revenue is shown by the following figures:—

	£	s.	d.
In 1892 - - - - -	10,743	18	6
In 1893 - - - - -	10,869	3	8
In 1894 - - - - -	11,685	1	11

The receipts from the railway department continue to increase, owing to the efficient management of the department, to greater passenger traffic, and to the more frequent running of trains. In the year under review the revenue earned by the railway was in excess of that of the preceding year as well as of the forecast for 1894.

The following figures show the revenue received by the Railway Department in the last three years, viz.,—

	£.	s.	d.
In 1892 - - - -	3,750	19	10
In 1893 - - - -	4,751	18	8
In 1894 - - - -	5,603	17	0

The source of revenue next in importance, after the Customs, is that derived from the landed estate of the Government. As in previous years, the receipts in the shape of rents show an increase under the head of house property and a decrease on agricultural lettings, viz.,—

	Urban.			Rural.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
In 1892 - - - - -	25,804	7	11¾	14,283	18	2¾
In 1893 - - - - -	26,421	7	7¼	13,866	11	3¼
In 1894 - - - - -	27,429	3	0¾	13,496	16	1¼

The increase in the rents of urban property is due to efficient measures for eliminating the profits of middlemen and to the reletting of the tenements falling out of lease at the present market value. The decline in the receipts from rural lettings is chiefly due to the fall in the price of wheat and to agricultural depression, which does not as yet show any signs of improvement.

As already stated, the revenue from harbour and quarantine dues has been subject to a reduction, no important quarantine restrictions having been imposed in 1894. As regards, however, the Tonnage Dues or Harbour Dues, it is to be observed with satisfaction that no abatement of revenue took place in 1894, a fact clearly demonstrating that the number of steam-vessels which visited our harbour last year was not below that of previous years. The following figures show the amount of tonnage dues received during the last three years :—

	£	s.	d.
In 1892 - - - -	7,476	0	6
In 1893 - - - -	8,065	6	0
In 1894 - - - -	8,326	19	9

The decrease in the revenue under heads "Water Supply" and "Interest" is too small to call for any particular remark.

Expenditure.

The provision voted for the expenditure for the year 1894 amounted to 328,120*l.* 4*s.* 0*d.* The actual expenditure, as already stated, reached the sum of 291,682*l.* 2*s.* 4*d.*, as follows:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Charges on account of Interest and Burthens	18,210	10	9½
Pensions	14,146	4	8
The Governor and Legislature	4,899	13	1
Chief Secretary's Department	4,302	15	9
Receiver-General and Director of Contracts Department	2,691	4	0
Customs and Port Department	10,204	6	10
Audit Department	1,414	19	0
Printing office	1,114	13	10
Railway Department	5,009	15	9
Legal Department	18,665	17	10
Police	42,578	19	4
Prisons	3,599	7	5
Charitable Institutions, including Monte di Pietà	42,341	3	5
Education	20,667	7	5
Post Office	10,856	17	11
Ecclesiastical Expenditure	1,227	7	10
Military Expenditure	5,000	0	0
Miscellaneous Services	10,463	10	1
Superintendent of Works Department	6,759	11	2
Public Works Recurrent	56,213	13	2½
Public Works Extraordinary	11,314	3	0
	£291,682	2	4

The expenditure for the last three years was as follows:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
In 1892 (13 months, including December 1891)	297,371	4	11¼
In 1893	304,992	13	0
In 1894	291,682	2	4

The heads of service under which increased expenditure was incurred in 1894 are the following:—

(*a.*) The Governor and Legislature,
(*b.*) Legal Departments,
(*c.*) Police Department,
(*d.*) Charitable Institutions,
(*e.*) Education.

The principal causes of such increased expenditure were, under the first three items, (*a*) the frequent elections for seats vacated by

members of the Council of Government, (*b*) the creation of a new office of Notary to the Government, (with the arrangement, however, that the fees are now paid into the public revenue), and a larger expenditure incurred in connection with criminal trials; and (*c*) the larger quantity of uniform clothing and bedding issued to the Police Force, the allowances payable to the Assistant Superintendents in lieu of uniforms granted during the year, and the several increments of salaries and allowances.

The Charitable Institutions, upon which about one-seventh of the whole of the public revenue is annually expended, cost, during the year 1894, 42,341*l.* 3*s.* 5*d.* In the previous two years the amount expended was as follows:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
In 1892 (13 months) -	43,521	13	2
In 1893 - - -	41,015	16	9

The chief causes of the increased expenditure were due to the better standard of diet supplied to the inmates of the Poor House, the abnormal number of the patients in the institutions, and to the payment of bills for supplies of bedding ordered in 1893 and delivered in 1894.

The cost of the Educational Department for the last three years was as follows:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
In 1892 (13 months) - -	21,329	12	9
In 1893 - - -	20,369	15	2
In 1894 - - -	20,667	7	5

The increase in 1894 is, to a very small extent, due to expansion of primary or technical schools, the greater part having been incurred on behalf of the University and the Lyceum, where the fees payable by the students are admitted to be too low in comparison to the facilities afforded for instruction.

The expenditure under the other heads of service was below that of the preceding year, the diminution being attributable to the fact that the expenses in 1893 had surpassed the ordinary proportion usually spent under those heads.

As regards the Public Works Department, though its expenditure was actually less than that of the previous year, it would nevertheless have been much higher had all the provisions, voted for works in 1894, been totally expended. The provisions, in fact, voted were as follows:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Recurrent works - -	65,213	13	9
Extraordinary works - -	27,681	6	0
Giving a total of - -	£92,894	19	9

Whereof the actual expenditure amounted to:—

	£	s.	d.
Recurrent - - -	56,213	13	2½
Extraordinary - - -	11,314	3	0
giving a total of - -	£67,527	16	2½

From the above figures, it will be seen that a sum of 25,367*l.* 3*s.* 6½*d.* remained unexpended at the close of the year, owing to the circumstances that certain works could not be taken in hand, or completed within the year.

The expenditure, under Ordinance No. V. of 1891, of moneys arising from the proceeds of sale of Government immovable property, has now become of such importance as to call for special mention. From the fund constituted as above stated, the following sums have, in terms of said Ordinance, been voted since 1891, and up to the 31st December, 1894:—

	£	s.	d.
For the Railway - - -	16,099	11	6
Towards the purchase of the "Palazzo Parisio" (General Post Office) -	2,900	0	0¼
For the erection of schools - -	2,449	0	0
For the erection of syndic's courts, police stations and dispensaries -	1,293	0	0
For a municipal electric lighting installation - - - -	35,500	0	0
For improving property yielding rent -	300	0	0
For the erection of a hospital for contagious diseases in Gozo - -	385	0	0
Total - - -	£58,926	11	6¾

The above undertakings are all considered to be remunerative. The investments either pay interest directly, or will cause economy of expenditure from public revenue corresponding to the rate of interest previously received from invested stock.

Public Works.

The works of importance which were taken in hand during the year, and upon which extraordinary expenditure was incurred, are chiefly the following:—

Towards the construction of a new abattoir, 807*l.* 13*s.* 0*d.*; the completion of the prison for women, 2,295*l.*; the improvement of roads, streets and bridges, 2,174*l.* 4*s.* 10½*d.*; the extension of water supply, 2,657*l.* 6*s.* 9*d.*; the reconstruction of moles in the great harbour, 696*l.* 19*s.* 5*d.*; drainage works, 593*l.* 7*s.* 2½*d.*; the improvement in buildings of charitable institutions, 1,061*l.* 10*s.* 5*d.*; and the improvements in the cemeteries, 506*l.* 2*s.* 0*d.*

Civil Establishments.

During the temporary absence of your Excellency, Major General C. B. Knowles, C. B., was appointed, and acted as Deputy-Governor from 27th August to the 7th October.

Sir Joseph Carbone, K.C.M.G., LL.D., (now Chief Justice) acted as Chief Secretary to Government during my absence from these Islands, from the 18th July to the 7th September, the ordinary duties of his office as Crown Advocate having been performed by Alfredo Naudi, Esq., LL.D., the present Crown Advocate.

Legislation.

Five legal enactments were passed in the Session of 1894, the most important of which are the following:—

Ordinance No. IV.

"To Amend Article 384 of the Criminal Laws."

The circumstances that gave rise to the passing of this Ordinance are briefly as follows:

Two men were brought before Her Majesty's Criminal Court for trial on an indictment charging them with theft, accompanied with wilful homicide, and, as soon as they were placed at the bar, one of them, feigning insanity, behaved in such a manner as to make it appear impossible to the judges to proceed with the trial That he was not labouring under any form of mental derangement was ascertained by a Medical Board subsequently appointed to examine him. But as, when ordered to be placed again at the bar for his arraignment, he behaved as he had done on his first appearance, notwithstanding the measures taken by the Court under Article 384 of the Criminal laws, authorizing any measure that the insubordination of the accused may render necessary, the trial was again put off. The judges requested that the law might be amended in the sense of giving power to the Court to proceed with the trial in the absence of the accused, when such absence became a necessary consequence of his misconduct.

In suggesting the above amendment, the sitting judges stated their opinion that, on a statement of the late Sir James Fitzjames Stephen, in his Digest of the Law of Criminal Procedure, to the effect "that if a prisoner so misconducts himself as to make it "impossible to try him with decency, the court, it seems, may "order him to be removed, and proceed in his absence," they would have been perfectly justified, even without an express provision of the law, to proceed without the presence of the accused; but as they considered it possible, at the time, to have the doubt settled by the Council of Government, they urged recourse to legislation.

An Ordinance was, therefore, introduced to amend Article 384 of the Criminal Laws in the sense that, "if, in any manner, the "accused shall so behave as to disturb order during the sitting, "and after having been admonished by the Court shall persist "in such behaviour, or shall repeat it, the Court may direct that "he be removed from the place appointed for the sitting, or, if he "be under arrest, that he be taken back to prison, and may "commence and continue the trial with the assistance, only, of "the Advocate whom the accused may have retained for his "defence, or, if he shall have none, with the assistance of the "Advocate for the Poor, or of any other Advocate appointed by "the Court."

When the draft was in the committee stage, amendments were proposed by the Representative of the Graduates of the University and by the member representing the 4th District, and the law, as eventually passed, restricts the power of the Court of removing the prisoner to cases where the punishment of death is demanded, and makes that power dependent on a declaration of the jury that the behaviour of the prisoner is such as to disturb the proceedings of the trial.

Ordinance No. V.

"To Repeal Ordinance No. XV. of 1893."

The object of this Ordinance is to repeal the Ordinance entitled "To obtain certain statistical information respecting the trade of "these Islands," which was promulgated by Proclamation, No. XII., of the 26th August 1893.

The repealing enactment was introduced in Council by the member representing therein the "Members of the Borsa di "Commercio of Malta"; it was opposed by the official members, but received, finally, the support of all the elected members with the exception of one, and it eventually passed on the 17th October 1894.

The reasons adduced for the repeal of the Ordinance were the inconvenience which, it was stated, had been experienced by some in the working of the law, inasmuch as the person who imported goods had to fill up a certain form which was not formerly required to be filled up, and because of the prejudice which many people, engaged in commerce, said the law would cause to local trade by diminishing the secrecy previously relied upon.

Although the provisions of the Ordinance which has now been repealed were not all that had been desired to enable the Government to obtain reliable information for the purpose of the compilation of commercial statistics, the repealed Ordinance constituted a first step towards progressive legislation on the subject. It is to be regretted that what appears to be a deep-rooted and well-sustained prejudice in these Islands against the compiling of correct commercial statistics should have brought about the passing of this repealing Ordinance.

MALTA. 1894.

Population and Public Health.

The population of these Islands is steadily increasing. On the 31st December 1893 it was estimated at 168,105. To this may be added 2,160 to represent the excess of births over deaths in 1894; and the estimated population at the close of the year, exclusive of the Imperial forces, may be put down at 170,265, an increase of 5,228 since the taking of the last Census on the 5th April 1891.

The number of births in 1894 was 6,714; of these 3,528 were males and 3,186 females, being at the rate of 1,107 males to every 1,000 females.

The number of marriages was 1,016, or 51 less than in the preceding year.

The deaths registered in 1894 amounted to 4,554, a decrease of 649 as compared with those of 1893, the death-rate having fallen from 30·9 per 1,000 of the population in 1893 to 26·7 in 1894, which is below the average for the last 20 years. Of these, 2,354 were males (28·00 per 1,000) and 2,200 females (25·52 per 1,000).

Education.

The Government educational establishments at present are an University, a Lyceum, two secondary schools, 110 elementary day schools, 26 night schools, a school of technical and manual instruction, and a school for the training of assistant teachers.

From statistical information furnished by the Director of Education to the Senate of the University, it appears that the average percentage of attendance during the scholastic year 1893–94 was 81·3, and the average percentage of passes 92·5, which was considered satisfactory.

The number of children on the books on the 1st September last was 15,153, *i.e.* 801 over the enrolment of last year. There were still 5,761 children on the books of the schools awaiting admission for whom there was not sufficient accommodation.

This state of affairs is much to be regretted; but the Government is unable, with the limited means at its disposal, to progress at a greater rate with the policy it has recently followed of building new schools to provide gratuitous education for all. Bearing this fact in mind, the Senate of the University has again suggested the desirability of calling upon the, comparatively speaking, better-to-do classes to contribute more commensurately towards the expenses of their own education, and recommended that the savings effected thereby should be apportioned to the furthering of the education of the poorer classes in the elementary schools. The measure had already been brought to the notice of the Council of Government but a resolution thereon was rejected in the council by the unanimous vote of the elected members.

The net expenditure in respect to the educational department, after deducting the income received as students' fees, during the scholastic year 1893-94, was as follows :—

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.	
University - -	3,197	16	1	or	37	12	5	per head.
Lyceum - -	2,304	8	4	„	4	15	7¼	„
Secondary School, Gozo - -	235	0	0	„	5	0	0	„
Secondary School, Valetta - -	120	14	11	„	0	17	4½	„
Elementary Schools	11,775	14	7	„	1	1	2¼	„
Total -	£17,633	13	11,	being about	1/17	th of the		

revenue, and 1/16th of the expenditure, of the Colony.

The income received as students' fees amounted to 560*l.* 0*s.* 10*d.*, viz.,—University, 106*l.* 5*s.* 10*d.*, Lyceum, 208*l.* 0*s.* 0*d.*, and Secondary School, Valetta, 245*l.* 15*s.* 0*d.*

Imports and Exports.

The total value of the imports in 1894 was returned at 13,773,783*l.*, showing an increase of 41,753*l.* over that in 1893.

The value of the imports from the United Kingdom was 171,154*l.*, or 18,654*l.* less than last year.

The total value of the exports amounted to 13,086,747*l.* against 12,275,141*l.* in the preceding year.

The exports to the United Kingdom were valued at 2,737,744*l.*, being 861,342*l.* more than in 1893.

Of the total value of exports, 2,734,708*l.*, proceeded in the same vessels.

There are no means of officially stating what amount of articles of local produce and manufacture is exported, but the quantity is apparently very small.

Shipping.

The number of vessels entered at this Port in 1894 was as follows :—

Steam-vessels,	2,826,	with a tonnage of	3,510,012.
Sailing-vessels,	1,300,	„ „	87,980

The corresponding arrivals in the preceding year were :—

Steam-vessels,	2,670,	with a tonnage of	3,381,380.
Sailing-vessels,	1,181,	„ „	90,905.

There has therefore been an increase of 156 steamers and 128,632 tons over 1893, and also an increase of 119 sailing vessels with a decrease of 2,925 tons.

There has been a corresponding increase of 261*l.* 13*s.* 9*d.* in the revenue under "Port Dues and Tonnage Dues," which amounted to 8,326*l.* 19*s.* 9*d.* against 8,065*l.* 6*s.* 0*d.* in the preceding year.

Currency.

The maximum rate of exchange with London in 1894 remained the same as in the preceding year, viz.,—

On demand, 10*s.* per 100*l.*
At three days' sight, 8*s.* per 100*l.*
At 30 days' sight, 5*s.* per 100*l.*
At 60 days' sight, 2*s.* 6*d.* per 100*l.*
90 days' sight, at par.

The banking companies doing business in Malta are "The Banco di Malta," "The Anglo-Maltese Bank," and "The Anglo-Egyptian Bank." There are, however, other important private banking firms.

The amount of coin in circulation is estimated at 385,000*l.*, and the circulation of notes, which is at present restricted to the notes of the two former banks, is stated to be about 30,000*l.*, but it is not subject to any Government control.

To accord facilities to the commercial community, the heads of Government departments were authorized to receive payments by certified cheques.

The Government and the commercial community, with the exception of a few merchants at the Marina and in the villages, keep accounts in sterling.

Agriculture.

The almost total failure of the potato crop in 1894, due to disease, and the low prices of corn and other produce, have caused unusual depression among the agricultural class, and lowered to a great extent the rental value of the land, which in many cases remained untenanted and uncultivated.

The loss from the potato disease is estimated at between 60,000*l.* and 80,000*l.* The prohibition of the importation of seed potatoes from Great Britain and Ireland has resulted in the importation of the seed from many other parts of the continent. There was little trace of disease in the winter crop. Great advantage has accrued from a general change of seed.

The Sulla (red clover) crop was good, and a large quantity was exported to Tunis, Algiers and Marseilles. There was also a good crop of oranges, the disease having been much less than in late years, but, as the prices were very low, the exportation was very limited.

Gaols and Prisons.

The number of prisoners committed during the last three years was as follows :—

In 1892	7,648
In 1893	7,357
In 1894	7,116

The cost of the prison being, for the same years, 3,706*l.* 17*s.* 6*d.*, 3,621*l.* 9*s.* 4*d.*, and 3,481*l.* 14*s.* 1*d.* respectively, showing an annual decrease both in the number of committals and in the expenditure, whilst the prisoners' earnings have increased from 760*l.* in 1892 to 950*l.* in 1894.

The Corradino Prison, which is on the mixed cellular system as regards criminal wards, now comprises 254 separate cells and six wards, a new ward having been added for female prisoners.

The labour required from prisoners is various in character and the profits of the prisoners' labour are lodged in the Treasury.

There are in the prison two chapels in which religious services are respectively performed by a resident Roman Catholic Clergyman, and by three visiting chaplains, one of the Church of England, one Presbyterian, and one Wesleyan.

Criminal Statistics.

The offences reported to the police in 1894 amounted to 8,555 against 8,956 in the previous year. The number of summary convictions before the police magistrates was 13,718 or 1,488 less than in 1893. In addition, there were 881 persons brought before the magistrates who were either discharged for want of prosecution and of evidence, or dismissed on the merits of the case. The majority of these summonses were for minor offences.

The number of persons committed for trial in Her Majesty's Criminal Court was 147, of whom 36 were discharged and 111 were convicted. There were four cases of murder (with regard to one of which the crime had escaped detection for years), and two cases of manslaughter.

General Remarks.

During 1894 the trade of Malta suffered severely, not only in consequence of the general depression of the trade in other countries and of the general fall in prices, but also on account of the failure of the potato crop, which is one of the principal agricultural resources of this island.

The failure of the potato crop last year has increased the difficulties in the way of dealing with the present agricultural crisis. The seed for the Malta potato crop had been imported every year, and it is recognized that the seed imported in 1893 was in part unsatisfactory and did not germinate. Certain restrictions recommended by the Board of Health had the effect of causing seed to be imported from different countries and of bringing about a thorough change and renewal of the stock.

Two Ordinances were introduced in the Council with a view to assisting agricultural interests; the first of these Ordinances amends the old Ordinance of 1837 which establishes the tariff of dues payable on cattle imported. The dues under that tariff

were payable at "so much for each head" of cattle; the amending Ordinance was framed to alter that system in the sense that the duty should be payable on an unit of weight. The other Ordinance, which was introduced "to make some provisions for relieving "agriculturists and owners of cattle from losses consequent upon "the destruction, in the interests of public health and without "compensation, of diseased meat" gives the Government power to insure cattle before slaughtering, so as to protect the owners against the risk of the animal being found diseased, and destroyed.

A vote authorizing the adoption of electric lighting as a municipal undertaking was passed by the Council, the provision of 34,500*l.* for lighting by electricity Valetta, Floriana, the Grand Harbour and the Three Cities being sanctioned, subject only to a satisfactory agreement with the military authorities as to certain details for the supply of electric light to the War Department buildings in Malta.

By resolution of the Council of Government of the 14th February 1894, a select committee was appointed to inquire into and report upon the further drainage works to be undertaken by the Government, and the funds to be provided for that object. The Committee was generally of opinion that a comprehensive scheme of drainage could not be carried out unless the Council of Government were prepared to sanction a loan of about 100,000*l.* This would probably be immediately covered locally, to the great advantage of the Island, as it would put in circulation among the working classes part of the large amount of coin known to be idly hoarded in Malta.

A vote of 6,350*l.* was also passed by the Council for the extension of the water supply of Malta.

A select committee of the Council was appointed on the 4th April 1894 to report on proposals for erecting a slaughter-house and to select the site required for the object of superseding the existing old insanitary slaughter-house, which still drains into the harbour, and which does not offer the necessary accommodation to ensure a compliance with modern sanitary requirements.

The railway has also been improved during 1894. The Valetta terminus was extended and a ventilation shaft made in that station. The Hamrun station was enlarged and a waiting room and a carpenter's shop constructed. The two timber bridges near Porte des Bombes and the S. Salvator Bridge were rebuilt in stone. A new siding at S. Salvator station was completed and an overway near this station commenced. The object of the latter work is, to do away with a level crossing on the high road to Notabile. A vote of 5,000*l.* was also taken for extending the line by driving a tunnel under Notabile, and the work is already commenced. Votes have also been passed for an additional locomotive engine and for six more railway carriages.

Certain lands on Corradino Hill were sold to the Naval Authorities, their value having been settled by agreement and arbitration at a total of 22,439*l.* 17*s.* 4*d.*

The clerical establishment and the staff of the charitable institutions were reorganised (to suit the present requirements of the service and to adapt the standard of pay and promotion to the needs of the times) at the additional cost of 4,752*l.* 4*s.* 7*d.* a year, to which increments and pensions will gradually be added.

The erection of a new school for Rabate and Notabile was commenced, and the steps necessary for purchasing sites for schools at Musta and Zebbug were pushed forward.

A traction engine and pumping plant was provided for raising and carrying away sewage matter from localities not connected with the main drainage.

The planting of trees was extended with unusual vigour with funds voted by the council, and the permission of the Military Authorities was obtained for planting trees on the "glacis" of the ramparts of Valetta.

The health of these Islands in 1894 was satisfactory, the general death-rate having been 26·7, and that from zymotic disease considerably reduced.

I have, &c.

G. STRICKLAND,

Chief Secretary to Government.

COLONIAL REPORTS.—ANNUAL.

No. 172.

MALTA.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1895.

(For Report for 1894, *see* No. 142 of this Series.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
July 1896.

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157	Labuan	"
158	Gold Coast	"
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MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada	Emigration.
5	Bahamas	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague.

No. 172.

MALTA.

(For Report for 1894, *see* No. 142.)

Sir A. J. LYON FREMANTLE to Mr. CHAMBERLAIN.

SIR, Palace, Valletta, June 9, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to forward, herewith, for your information, the Chief Secretary's Report on the Blue Book for the year 1895.

I have, &c.
ARTHUR LYON FREMANTLE,
Governor.

SIR, Chief Secretary's Office, Valletta, June 9, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to submit the following report on the Blue Book for the year 1895:—

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

Revenue.

The total revenue for the year was 305,440*l.* 14*s.* 3¾*d.*, against 301,858*l.* 13*s.* 9¼*d.* in 1894, showing a net increase of 3,582*l.* 0*s.* 6½*d.*, and an increase on the estimated revenue of 5,409*l.* 14*s.* 3¾*d.*, due chiefly to larger returns under the following general heads:—

a. Customs.
b. Fees and reimbursements.
c. Post Office.
d. Railway.
e. Water service.
f. Interest.

Decrease of revenue to some appreciable extent is noticeable under the following heads:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Harbour and quarantine dues - -	616	14	7
Licenses, court fines, &c. - - -	244	4	4
Rents (rural) - - - -	128	6	3¼
Rents (urban) - - - -	195	6	6¾
Rents on account of charitable institutions	10	13	0¼

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The following table gives a summary of the revenue receipts for the year 1895, compared with those of the previous year :—

——	1895.	1894.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Customs	168,729 3 7	168,086 19 5	642 4 2	—
Harbour and quarantine dues	8,905 14 2	9,522 8 9	—	616 14 7
Licences, Court fines, &c.	5,605 5 5½	5,849 9 9½	—	244 4 4
Fees of Court, or office payments for specific services, and reimbursements	22,623 1 4½	22,142 3 11	480 17 5½	—
Post Office	13,337 17 9	11,685 1 11	1,652 15 10	—
Railway	5,963 2 0	5,603 17 0	359 5 0	—
Water service	8,316 19 9	7,626 18 10½	690 0 10½	—
Rents, rural	13,368 9 10	13,496 16 1½	—	128 6 3½
Rents, urban	27,233 16 6	27,429 3 0½	—	195 6 6½
Rents on account of charitable institutions	3,980 17 9½	3,991 10 10	—	10 13 0½
Interest	27,376 6 0½	26,424 4 1	952 1 11½	—
Total	305,440 14 3½	301,858 13 9½	4,777 5 3½	1,195 4 9½
	—	—	3,582 0 6½	—

The Customs receipts, which form the most important source of revenue, have not expanded at the same rate in proportion to the increase of previous years. This is due to the decrease in the receipts derived from duty on cattle imported, which have fallen off by 3,115*l.* 1*s.* on the amount realised in 1894. It is held that the reduced importation in the year was caused by the high price of cattle in Barbary, a circumstance which deterred importers from buying and importing larger consignments than what was immediately required for actual consumption. It is, however, gratifying to notice that under other heads the Customs duties have kept up their normal progressive elasticity, and that, notwithstanding the falling off in the cattle duty, the aggregate revenue of the Customs shows a net increase over 1894 of 642*l.* 4*s.* 2*d.*

The increase in fees and reimbursements was chiefly under three new items of revenue, which have only recently come into operation, viz., (1) Proceeds of sale of plants, &c. from public gardens, (2) fees for the use of the traction engine employed in emptying cesspools, and (3) fees on notarial contracts collected by the Government notary. Of these, the first and third were formally received and appropriated by the departments concerned without being accounted for as revenue, the second item (traction engine) is a new source of revenue, accruing from a municipal undertaking for emptying cesspools, organized by the Government in connexion with the newly created Public Health Department. This undertaking, besides affording sanitary advantages, has proved to be likewise financially remunerative.

The revenue earned by the Post Office has continued to expand under almost all its sub-heads of receipts, but especially by the sale of stamps, share on parcels-post inwards, and international transit rates. This increase is mainly due to the newly-established daily mail service with the Continent, under a contract with the Austro-Hungarian Company, by the "Adria," and the consequent larger volume of correspondence and of parcel-post traffic. It must, however, be noted that in 1895 the Post Office received on account of arrear charges due for previous years for international transit rates the sum of 1,746*l.* 5*s.* 9½*d.*, and that, therefore, the increase of 1,652*l.* 15*s.* 10*d.* over the revenue of 1894 is not to be considered as an index of the normal progressive increment of the postal revenue.

The following figures of the revenue and expenditure of the Post Office during the last three years, whilst indicating a steady increase in the service, show that all the profits of the concern are expended to the advantage of the class of persons who contribute to this special source of public receipts:—

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1893 - -	10,869 3 8	11,122 6 5
1894 - -	11,685 1 11	10,856 17 11
1895 - -	13,337 17 9	13,737 11 5

The Railway Department realised an increase of revenue to an amount of 359*l.* 5*s.* This undertaking is steadily, though slowly, progressing, and is expected to become more remunerative than it is at present when the extension of the line beyond Notabile will have been completed. The revenue and expenditure of this concern during the last three years were as follows:—

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1893 - -	4,751 18 8	5,234 12 0
1894 - -	5,603 17 0	5,009 15 9
1895 - -	5,963 2 0	5,745 19 8
1895 Special, on capital account -		1,942 16 0

The water supply undertaking, which is another municipal enterprise yielding revenue, showed an increase of 690*l.* 0*s.* 10½*d.* on account of supply of water and rent of meters. This undertaking is financially unremunerative. The large capital sunk in the waterworks does not, and cannot under present regulations,

pay any interest. The advantages, however, accruing to the public on the score of public health and sanitation are of such importance as to be considered a set-off to the pecuniary loss of the undertaking, when considered as a commercial investment of public money. It is, at any rate, a matter of satisfaction to note that the revenue earned for supply of water and rent of meters is progressing favourably, as shown by the following figures:—

	£	s.	d.
In 1893 - - - -	5,676	17	10
In 1894 - - - -	5,849	13	9½
In 1895 - - - -	6,701	3	10

Under the head of interest, the receipts show an increase of 952*l.* 1*s.* 11½*d.*, which is due to additional dividends from investments made at the close of 1894, to the larger profit obtained from the operations of the Monte di Pietà, and to additional interest brought to account on further sums advanced to the Malta Railway Department.

After reviewing the heads of revenue which yielded larger receipts than on the previous year, some observations may be noted on such of the items in regard to which a diminution of receipts was experienced. Of these, the first is the head of "Harbour and Quarantine Dues," the revenue of which has decreased by 616*l.* 14*s.* 7*d.* The causes of such diminution are principally to be attributed to the reduction in the number of steam vessels calling at our port, owing to the general depression of trade, and to the competition in coaling by other ports in the Mediterranean. This state of depression does not, so far, show any signs of amelioration, and the prospects of even keeping up this standard of revenue to its present figure do not appear to be very hopeful.

The decrease of the revenue under the head of "Licences, Court Fines, &c." by 244*l.* 4*s.* 4*d.* is not of such a nature as to call for any particular comment. There was a small reduction on the receipts for licences for keeping wine and spirits shops and for carrying guns. The amounts of court fines inflicted are likewise somewhat lower than in the previous year.

The source of revenue next in importance after the Customs is that derived from the rents of the landed estate administered by the Government. The decrease of these receipts, as compared with those of 1894, amounted, on the whole, to 334*l.* 5*s.* 10¼*d.* This amount is not large in itself, but, small as it is, it clearly indicates that the highest obtainable market value of the house property of the Government was reached in the year immediately preceding, and that Government rents are no longer, generally speaking, liable to further development. The apparent prospects would be that, as far as house property is concerned, it will remain firm at its present rental, but as regards agricultural lettings the Government must be prepared to expect a further diminution of the revenue. The following figures bear out this conclusion:—

—	Urban Property.	Rural Property.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
In 1893 - -	26,421 7 7¼	13,866 11 3¼
In 1894 - -	27,429 3 0¾	13,496 16 11¼
In 1895 - -	27,283 16 6	13,368 9 10

EXPENDITURE.

The expenditure of the year amounted to 301,550*l.* 16*s.* 9¼*d.*, being 9,868*l.* 14*s.* 5¼*d.* over that of the previous year. It was, however, kept within the revenue, which, as shown above, reached 305,440*l.* 14*s.* 3¾*d.*

The following is a comparative statement of the Treasury disbursements compared with 1894:—

—	1895.	1894.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Charges on account of interest and burthens - - -	20,126 3 10	18,210 10 9½	1,915 13 0½	—
Pensions - - - -	15,399 4 5	14,146 4 8	1,252 19 9	—
The Governor and Legislature -	4,752 2 10	4,899 13 1	—	147 10 3
Chief Secretary's Department -	4,134 9 5	4,302 15 9	—	168 6 4
Receiver-General and Director of Contract's Department -	2,890 4 3	2,691 4 0	199 0 3	—
Customs and Port Department -	10,674 16 3	10,204 6 10	470 9 5	—
Audit Department - -	1,617 19 3	1,414 19 0	203 0 3	—
Printing office - - -	1,138 18 1	1,114 13 10	24 4 3	—
Railway Department - -	5,745 19 8	5,009 15 9	736 3 11	—
Railway Department, special expenditure - - -	1,942 16 0	—	1,942 16 0	—
Legal Department - - -	18,605 2 1	18,665 17 10	—	60 15 9
Police - - - -	37,897 2 0	42,578 19 4	—	4,681 17 4
Public Health Department -	10,887 13 11½	—	10,887 13 11½	—
Prisons - - - -	3,637 14 2	3,599 7 5	38 6 9	—
Charitable Institutions, including the Monte di Pietà - -	41,191 16 3	42,341 3 5	—	1,149 7 2
Education - - - -	21,414 9 8	20,667 7 5	747 2 3	—
Post office - - - -	13,737 11 5	10,856 17 11	2,880 13 6	—
Ecclesiastical expenditure -	1,240 0 2	1,227 7 10	12 12 4	—
Military expenditure - -	5,000 0 0	5,000 0 0	—	—
Miscellaneous services - -	10,628 17 8½	10,463 10 1	165 7 7½	—
Superintendent of Works Dept.	6,196 16 6	6,759 11 2	—	562 14 8
Public works recurrent - -	49,200 17 9½	56,213 13 2½	—	7,012 15 5½
Public works extraordinary -	13,490 1 1	11,314 3 0	2,175 18 1	—
Total - - -	301,550 16 9½	291,682 2 4	23,652 1 4½	13,783 6 11½
	—	—	9,868 14 5½	—

In analysing the above expenditure it is important to point out the fact that, by the adoption on the 1st January 1895 of the schemes for the amelioration of the salaries of the clerical staff, of the staff of the charitable institutions, and of the junior members of the teaching staff in the primary schools, the general annual expenditure of the Government has been increased by 5,500*l.*; independently of the above fact, the heads of service under which other important increase of expenditure is noticeable in 1895 are the following:—

a. Charges on account of interest and burthens.
b. Pensions.
c. Railway Department.
d. Public Health Department.
e. Post Office.
f. Public Works.

The principal causes of such augmented expenditure under the three first-mentioned heads of service (*a*, *b*, *c*) were the following:—The additional interest paid to the savings bank for further investments and the larger instalment transferred in the year from revenue towards the formation of the general reserve fund; the greater amount of pensions granted, on some of which arrear payments were effected; and the special expenditure incurred on account of the purchase of a new locomotive engine for the railway. As regards the other three heads of service (*d*, *e*, *f*) the following remarks are submitted:—

The increase of expenditure on account of charges, other than personal emoluments, incurred for the service of the Post Office amounts to 2,262*l.* 7*s.* 3*d.*, and this increase is to be attributed chiefly to the new postal contract for the conveyance of daily mails between Malta and Syracuse, according to which the annual subsidy payable by Government was increased from 4,400*l.* to 6,000*l.* There were also extraordinary payments arising from the settlement of charges of arrears of previous years on account of conveyance of mails and International transit rates, and owing to the expense incurred for the purchase of two Post Office vans. The entire cost of this department, as compared with that of the two preceding years, gives the following result:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
In 1893 - - - -	11,122	6	5
In 1894 - - - -	10,856	17	11
In 1895 - - - -	13,737	11	5

The expenditure under the other heads of service, exclusive of Public Works Extraordinary, was below that of the preceding year. The diminution of expenditure under the heads of Police, Charitable Institutions, and Superintendent of Works Department, is due to the transfer of several minor branches of the service to the Public Health Department.

During the year under review, a new department was created under the designation of Public Health Department, under which several previously scattered branches of service were brought

together and reorganised. In this important department, at the head of which is placed the Chief Government Medical Officer, all services in connection with the sanitary laws, the district medical service, the drainage works, and the slaughter houses have been centralized. It is expected that by the organisation of this new department all matters affecting public sanitation will be more congruously and effectively supervised and controlled, to the general advantage of the community. In this first year of its existence the cost of the department amounted to 10,887*l.* 13*s.* 11½*d.*, but, on the other hand, a proportionate decrease in the expenditure has thereby been obtained in the other departments from which the various sub-branches were segregrated, amounting to 10,139*l.* 7*s.* 4*d.*

Under the head "Legislature," the decrease of expenditure is due to the non-payment of the salary attached to the vacant post of Vice-President of the Council; and under the head of "Public Works annually recurrent" such diminution was caused by the reduced number and extent of works and repairs during the year as compared with those effected in the previous year. The decrease of expenditure under the other departments is too insignificant to call for any special explanation.

The cost of the Public Works Department Staff was below that of previous years, for the reasons already stated. As regards its expenditure, irrespectively of the staff, the provisions voted were as follows:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Recurrent works - - -	56,783	12	1
Extraordinary works - -	26,884	3	1
giving a total of - -	83,667	15	2

whilst the actual expenditure amounted only to—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Recurrent - - - -	49,200	17	9¼
Extraordinary - - -	13,490	1	1
Total - - -	62,690	18	10¼

From the above figures it will be seen that no less a balance than 20,976*l.* remained unexpended at the end of the year.

The provisions voted under Ordinance No. V. of 1891 out of the fund accruing from the proceeds of sales of the immovable property of the Colony were, during the year, the following:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Railway - - - - -	7,247	2	4
Erection of a new school house at Notabile	1,060	0	0
Improving Crown Property yielding rent	300	0	0
Total - - - -	8,607	2	4

Out of the above provisions, and out of other provisions previously taken under the aforesaid Ordinance, the following items of expenditure were incurred in 1895, viz.:—

	£	s.	d.
For railway works - - -	2,582	2	3
Towards the purchase of the "Palazzo Parisio" (General Post Office) -	17	7	7
Towards the erection of a school house at Victoria, Gozo - - -	29	5	10
Towards the establishment of lighting by electricity - - -	6,177	16	3½
For the improvement of Crown property yielding rent - - -	173	6	2
Towards building a court house and police station at Zeitun - -	342	14	3½
Towards the erection of a hospital for contagious diseases in Gozo - -	126	0	11
For the erection of a new school house at Rabato, Notabile - -	880	11	8
	10,329	5	0

All the above works are considered to represent, either by the payment of interest directly, or by the saving of expenditure out of public revenue, a rate of interest corresponding to the income previously obtained from the investment of the capital in the old 3 per cents.

PUBLIC WORKS.

The works of importance which were in progress, or which were taken in hand, in 1895 and upon which extraordinary expenditure was incurred out of the revenue, are the following:—

Towards the erection of a new abattoir, 1,091*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*; construction of a shelter for boats at Marsalforno, 760*l.* 4*s.* 5*d.*; planting of trees, 781*l.* 11. 9*d.*; waterworks (exclusive of maintenance), 6,804*l.* 13*s.* 8*d.*; reconstruction and remodelling of roads, streets, and moles (exclusive of maintenance), 1,827*l.* 17*s.* 11½*d.*; drainage works (exclusive of maintenance), 940*l.* 5*s.* 10*d.*; and the construction of a shelter for boats in the Calcara Creek, 556*l.* 16*s.*

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

The Council was in session when the year opened; on the 20th February 1895 the Council was adjourned to the 22nd May.

On the 18th May the Council was prorogued to the 3rd of June, and on the 1st of that month it was dissolved, and a general election was ordered to be held within three months from that date.

The new session opened with the new Council on the 23rd October and continued beyond the close of the year under review.

The Council met 17 times during the period between the 3rd of January and the end of the year 1895.

LEGISLATION.

The following are the most important legislative enactments passed in 1895 :—

Ordinance No. III. of 1895.

"To amend the Ordinance promulgated by Proclamation No. VIII. of 3rd November 1837."

This Ordinance was introduced in order to give effect to a resolution which had been proposed by the representative of landowners and of the holders of titles of nobility, and agreed to unanimously by the Council of Government in October 1894. That resolution was in the following terms: "Resolved that a humble address be made to his Excellency the Governor, praying that he may be pleased to direct that the duty which at present is paid on the importation of cattle be no longer calculated *per head*, but that it be calculated on the weight of live cattle, at the rate of four shillings per cantar" (175 lbs.).

Before the enactment of this Ordinance, the import duty which, according to Proclamation No. VIII. of 1837, has to be levied by the Collector of Customs on cattle was regulated as follows: "On "bullocks and other animals of the kind, per head 10*s*." That tariff was established at a time when steamers were not capable of bringing large quantities of cattle from Russia, and when consequently the small and light cattle imported from Barbary were the source of principal supply of the Island. But for several years a great change in the meat trade has taken place. Cattle in considerably increased numbers come from Russia, and the weight of each head of Russian cattle is generally double that of the animals imported from other usual sources of supply. It therefore became illogical to maintain the standard for levying the duty on cattle established by the above quoted proclamation, whereby small and light cattle were taxed just the same as heavy beasts fattened and fit for market. By following the old system the Government was in effect offering a bonus to the exporters of meat from Russia, and was maintaining a restrictive and almost prohibitive duty against the growers of live stock from the Barbary States, Algiers, Tunis, &c., and against the industry of importing store animals and fattening such light cattle in Malta.

In order to abolish such an illogical system of levying duty on cattle, the new Ordinance was passed, by which in Article 1. it is provided that the Collector of Customs shall levy, instead of the duty established by the Ordinance promulgated on the 3rd November 1837, "a duty of one shilling for every 25 rotoli "(43¾ lbs.) or for any fraction of such unit of weight, on all "live cattle (bulls, oxen, cows and their young) and on all

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"fresh, frozen, or preserved meat (beef) imported into these "Islands."

The Council and the Government adopted the view that the proposed change in the standard for levying the duty on cattle would not cause a reduction of that source of revenue, but that it might increase it. This conclusion is based on the fact, supported by the experience of over 50 years, that the weight of the cattle imported from Barbary, Tunis, Algiers, Greece, and Sardinia is generally between 200 and 300 rotoli, rising very seldom to 500, and that consequently the duty of 10*s.* had been originally calculated to be levied on cattle of an average weight of 250 rotoli (equal to 437½ lbs.) corresponding to 1*s.* per every 25 rotoli, as provided in the Ordinance. It was considered expedient that fractions of the unit of 25 rotoli should be subject to the duty to be levied on the unit of 25 rotoli to avoid complications in the accounts.

Articles 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 contain such provisions as appeared necessary to change the standard of reckoning the drawbacks, which had been previously regulated on the system of levying the duty on cattle at 10*s.* per head. The easiest way of settling the various difficulties connected with this point seemed to be that embodied in the above quoted articles; namely, that the duty to be refunded to the Imperial authorities on each and all heads of cattle disposed of by the Imperial authorities should be calculated on the weight of the animal at the time when duty was paid thereon, and on the amount of duty paid on each head of cattle as entered on the records of the Custom House.

The provision of Article 6 has a two-fold object:—

(*a.*) That of giving to any contractor for the supply to the Army and Navy, who is usually bound to keep a large reserve of live cattle, the advantage of not paying duty before three months from the date of importation, within which period of three months it was supposed that any such cattle would probably be slaughtered; and

(*b.*) of enabling the Government of these Islands to refund the drawback to the Imperial Government without any actual transfer of money being usually required except as a book transaction.

Power is given to the Collector of Customs by Article 2 to cause every head of cattle imported, on its being weighed for the purpose of ascertaining the duty payable thereon, to be branded by a mark determined by the Collector of Customs and with a number, for the evident purpose of enabling the Custom House to identify any head of imported cattle and thus to prevent any fraud against the provisions of the Ordinance, and also of enabling the military authorities to find out the heads of cattle which should form part of the established reserve.

Article 4 subjects to certain punishments whosoever shall forge, falsify, or alter, marks or numbers placed by the authorities at the Custom House upon imported cattle.

Article 8 limits the operation of the Ordinance to one year. That Article was insisted upon by the elected members, evidently with the intention of testing the effects of the new enactment, both in the interest of the trade and of the revenue, by the experience of the working of the Ordinance during one year.

The Ordinance commenced to take effect on the 6th March, 1895, according to the provision of Article 9. It has worked satisfactorily, without giving rise to any very serious complaint or causing an increase in the price of meat.

Ordinance No. IV. of 1895.

"To make some provisions for relieving agriculturists and owners of cattle from losses consequent upon the destruction, in the interest of the public health, of slaughtered cattle."

The object of this Ordinance is to give power to Government to undertake the insurance of cattle before it is slaughtered, so as to protect the owner against the risk of the animal being found diseased and consequently destroyed by the sanitary authorities. The justice of the proposal, which was urged by the representative of the nobility and landowners, was admitted for two reasons: (*a*) that it was necessary to offer compensation to the agriculturist whose beef might be condemned, as the loss of a beast would in the generality of cases involve the ruin of an average farmer, who from a thrifty and honest position of independence often finds himself in the predicament of being worse than p ad (*b*) that it enables the custodians of the interests of public health to condemn bad or suspected meat, without the risk of being influenced by any consideration as to the effects that their decision may have on the fortunes of owners of any condemned animal.

The premium to be paid on the insurance was limited in Article 2 to a rate between three and six per cent. on the value insured and the sum to be insured was limited to 90 per cent. of the value of the insured animal as estimated by the officer charged with the duty of effecting such insurance.

The provisions of Articles 3 and 5 of the Ordinance tend to safeguard the Government against the risk of this new enterprise and to enable the Government to limit the liability arising from the insurance of cattle.

Ordinance No. VI. of 1895.

"To make some provisions relating to property subject to a *fidei commissum*."

The object of this ordinance, which was passed on the 20th February 1895, is to make some provisions relating to property subject to entail.

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The first provision of this enactment extends to property subject to entail certain provisions of Ordinance No. VII. of 1868, whereby power is given to any co-owner of property held in common (if it cannot be divided without disadvantage or by the apportionment of property of a different kind, but of equal value, or if in a portion of property held in common there be a portion which no one of the co-owners can have or wish to have) to obtain its sale by licitation or auction, in order that the price thereof may be divided between the co-owners.

The justice of this provision is universally admitted. It has often occurred that the principal co-owners of some very valuable property subject to entail could not dispose of their respective shares in it, although the disposal could be effected on conditions positively advantageous to themselves and to the persons entitled to property next after them, owing to extravagant ideas of a co-owner, and in some cases to his endeavours to bargain as to the grant of his consent for the disposal of the whole property.

Ample provisions are made for safeguarding the rights of the persons called to succeed to such property next after the holder for the time being.

Provisions are also made for a safe and profitable investment of (*a*) the proceeds of licitation of common undivided property subject to entail, (*b*) the amount of the indemnity representing the property ceded in cases of expropriation on the ground of public utility, and (*c*) the price, or the part of the price, of property subject to entail the revocation of which may have been ordered for any ground other than for a reason of public utility.

It was desirable that an investment should be provided in each of the cases now mentioned, as, in each of them, the relinquishment by the co-owner or by the party expropriated of his property is compulsory, and he may not find a profitable and safe investment at the time when the money representing the value of his property is paid to him. In the case of licitation, of expropriation, or other transfer of entailed property, a provision for a safe and profitable investment of the proceeds in local funds was evidently required in the interest of the persons called to the enjoyment of the capital after the dispossessed owners of the entailed property.

A mode of providing for a safe and profitable investment in a local fund had already been dealt with by the Government in Ordinance No. V. of 1860, whereby it was enacted that sums of money not inferior to 50*l.* and belonging to minors or persons considered by the law as idiots, insane, or prodigal, to widows and to any persons having interest in a dowry or a settlement on a wife, might, by order of the competent Court, be invested in the purchase of a perpetual annuity to be, on such order, constituted by the Government of Malta, at the rate of two and seven-eighths per cent.

The advantage of the same form of investment was by the Ordinance under review extended to the persons referred to in the same. But, in view of the present low average net interest on investments in consols, it appeared just that the rate of the annuity to be paid by the Government should not exceed two and a half per cent. The provisions of Ordinance No. V. of 1860 (with the omission of several provisions which became unnecessary in view of other subsequent laws) were embodied in the present Ordinance, by which the former was practically revoked in the repealing clause contained in Art. 20.

Two other provisions of the Ordinance extend the power of the Court of voluntary jurisdiction (1) to authorize the holders of property subject to any divisible or indivisible *fidei commissum* to grant such property on *emphyteusis* under certain conditions, and (2) to revoke any entail, whether divisible or indivisible as regards any particular tenement, or other property subject thereto, when the income from it does not, after deducting all burthens, exceed the sum of 4*l.* sterling and this independently of the consent of those who are called to the entailed property after the possessor.

CIVIL ESTABLISHMENTS.

During your Excellency's absences from the Island, Major-General C. B. Knowles, C.B., was appointed, and acted, as Deputy Governor from the 26th August to the 26th September, and Major-General John Fletcher Owen, R.A., from the 9th to the 15th October.

The Honourable F. Vella, C.M.G., acted as Chief Secretary to Government during my absence from the 17th June to the 26th September, the ordinary duties of his office as Collector of Customs having been performed by his deputy.

POPULATION.

The total estimated population of these Islands on the 31st December 1895 was 172,537 against 170,265 in the previous year, showing an increase of 2,272. The mean of the population, taking into account the normal increase to the middle of the year, is estimated at 171,826. On these latter figures the following estimates of marriage, birth, and death-rates are based.

The number of marriages recorded during the year was 1,008, or a rate of 5·8 per 1,000 of the population.

The births registered in these Islands during the year numbered 6,859, or a rate of 39·9 per 1,000 of the mean population. Compared with last year an increase of 145 births is shown Of the births, 3,635 were males and 3,224 females.

The deaths recorded in the year numbered 4,587, the rate per 1,000 of the mean of the population being 26·6 ; 48·2 per cent. of the deaths were those of children under five years of age.

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GOVERNMENT SAVINGS BANK.

The number of depositors and the amount of deposits in the Bank for the last ten years were as follows:—

Year.	No. of Depositors.	Amount at credit to Depositors on 31st December.
		£
1886 - -	5,128	376,253
1887 - -	5,133	389,031
1888 - -	5,197	397,550
1889 - -	5,317	427,878
1890 - -	5,694	461,166
1891 - -	5,969	475,202
1892 - -	6,073	486,900
1893 - -	6,259	502,746
1894 - -	6,538	517,070
1895 - -	6,063	473,042

From the above it will be seen that both the number of depositors and the amount of deposits have progressed regularly every year, and that only in the year under review they, for the first time, shrunk, the former by 475 and the latter by an amount of 44,028*l.*

The cause of the above decrease was a misrepresentation, propagated by political agitators, of the effects of Ordinance No. VI of 1895, the provisions of which have already been explained under the head "Legislation" in this report.

Various rumours having been spread among the lower classes that the Ordinance was connected with the Savings Bank, and that it comprised some scheme of spoliation, some depositors, who were in no way affected by the provisions of the said Ordinance, were induced to withdraw their deposits from the Savings Bank.

That Ordinance did indeed authorise the Government to establish certain 2½ per cent. annuities, which would always have a market value, and could be sold like other securities, but it did not in any way compel any one either to invest his money in these annuities or to buy the securities of this Government in preference to British Funds or other securities.

Over 50,000*l.* were thus withdrawn between August and November last, after which date, however, the business of the Bank again tended to resume a normal condition.

The expense of management and interest credited to depositors in 1895 amounted to 8,286*l.* 8*s.* 5*d.*, while the revenue collected was 13,375*l.* 5*s.* 5¼*d.*, thus showing a net profit of 5,088*l.* 17*s.* 0¼*d.* on the year's transactions. The revenue compared with the preceding year shows an increase of 260*l.* 19*s.* 4¼*d.*

EDUCATION.

The following is a list of the educational establishments maintained by Government as reported in the Vice-Chancellor's Annual Report to the Senate of the University for the year 1894–95:—

1 University	attended by	113 students.
1 Lyceum	„	529 „
1 boys' secondary school	„	47 pupils.
1 girls' secondary school	„	128 „
112 elementary schools	„	11,503 children.

The elementary schools are distributed as follows:—

Boys', model, 1; elementary, in Malta, 28; in Gozo, 9	38
Boys', drawing (day), 5; evening, 4	9
Night, in Malta, 21; in Gozo, 3	24
Girls', model, 1; elementary, in Malta, 29; in Gozo, 9	39
Girls', infant, in Malta, 4; in Gozo, 1	5
Mixed, infant	17
Girls', drawing, in Malta	4
Wood carving and modelling	4
Technical and manual	1
Sunday	1
	142

The average per-centage of attendance in the elementary schools during the scholastic year 1894–95 is reported to have been 83·9 per cent. of the number (15,226) on the school registers.

In view of the fact that attendance is not compulsory, it can be regarded as satisfactory when compared with reports of other countries where a compulsory system prevails. The general average of per-centage of passes was as high as 90·4 per cent., which appears to be satisfactory.

3,742 children left the different elementary schools during the year; 4,124 were admitted, and 6,292 remain on the books (an increase of 531 on the number of the previous year) as seeking admission, but who have to wait to be admitted in view of lack of accommodation.

The new school in course of construction at Notabile, capable of accommodating 1,200 children, and the proposed building of another school at Musta, will to some extent meet the present want of accommodation, which is detrimental alike to the health of the children and to the extension of the system of elementary education.

The total expenditure during the scholastic year 1894–95 amounted to 18,856*l.* 12*s.* 2*d.* and the income from students' fees, examination fees, &c. to 1,048*l.* 16*s.* 4*d.*; the difference, 17,807*l.* 15*s.* 10*d.*, is therefore the net expenditure incurred from

public funds on account of the Education Department, as detailed hereunder:—

Establishment.	Gross Expenditure.	Income.	Net Expenditure.	Expenditure per Head.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
University - - - -	3,403 1 3	586 18 2	2,816 3 1	15 2 10
Lyceum - - - - -	2,593 7 9	222 12 4	2,370 15 5	5 3 1
Secondary school, Gozo - -	235 0 0	—	235 0 0	5 0 0
Secondary school, Malta - -	370 2 1	239 5 10	130 16 3	1 0 5½
Elementary schools - - -	12,255 1 1	—	12,255 1 1	1 1 3½
Totals - - -	18,856 12 2	1,048 16 4	17,807 15 10	—

Besides the above Government schools, there are 128 private schools in Malta and Gozo in which elementary and general instruction is imparted to 3,814 pupils, of whom 1,970 are males and 1,844 females.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

The total imports in 1895 amounted to 13,099,978*l.* against 13,773,783*l.* in 1894, a decrease of 673,805*l.*

The imports in the two years were as follows:—

	1895.	1894.
	£	£
From United Kingdom - -	174,350	171,154
„ British Colonies - -	324,916	221,888
„ Her Majesty's ships -	236	393
„ Foreign Countries - -	12,600,476	13,380,348
Total - - -	13,099,978	13,773,783

These figures show that, while there was a diminution of foreign trade to the amount of 779,872*l.* there was a collective increase of 106,224*l*, in the trade with the United Kingdom and the British Colonies.

Of the total imports in 1895, 802,891*l.* is the value of goods actually landed at this port and 12,297,087*l.* the value of cargoes carried in vessels which merely touched and proceeded without unloading. The corresponding figures in 1894 were 735,822*l.* and 13,037,961*l.* respectively.

From the above it will be seen that, though there was a decrease in the total value of the imports, the value of goods imported for home consumption exceeded by 67,069*l.* that of the preceding year: notwithstanding, therefore, complaints of commercial de-

pression, the statistics of the Customs Department do not show that there has been any diminution in the volume of local trade as regards, at least, articles subject to duty.

The imports in the two years for home consumption were as follows:—

	1895.	1894.
	£	£
From United Kingdom - - -	174,350	171,154
„ British Colonies - - -	2,285	2,094
„ Her Majesty's ships - - -	236	393
„ Foreign Countries - - -	626,020	562,181
Total - - -	802,891	735,822

Of the total imports from foreign countries in 1895, a sum of 481,677*l.* represents the value of wheat, wine, bullocks, oil, and seeds, the principal articles of consumption, imported in that year, against 432,441*l.* in 1894. Such articles not being imported from the United Kingdom but in very small quantities (5,140*l.* in 1895 and 2,833*l.* in 1894), the comparison between the value of all other goods subject to duty imported from the United Kingdom and from foreign countries will stand as follows:—

	1895.	1894.
	£	£
From United Kingdom - - -	169,210	168,321
„ Foreign Counties - - -	144,343	129,740
Difference in favour of the United Kingdom	24,867	38,581

The total exports in 1895 amounted to 13,231,813*l.* against 13,086,747*l.* in the preceding year, viz:—

	1895.	1894.
	£	£
To the United Kingdom - - -	2,859,870	2,737,744
„ the British Colonies - - -	3,317,588	3,978,977
„ Her Majesty's ships - - -	6,817	6,373
„ Foreign Countries - - -	7,047,593	6,363,653
Total - - -	13,231,818	13,086,747

MALTA. 1895.

Of the total exports in 1895 the sum of 13,177,642*l.* is the value of whole cargoes carried in ships which merely touched at this port and proceeded, and 54,171*l.* value of the exports from portions of cargoes which were actually landed.

The exports of local produce and manufactures cannot, in default of the maintaining of a Statistical Department, be officially stated.

SHIPPING AND TRADE.

The arrivals of vessels at this port in 1895 were as follows:—

2,676 steam vessels, with a tonnage of 3,430,202,
1,283 sailing vessels, with a tonnage of 82,225,

against

2,826 steam vessels, with a tonnage of 3,510,012,
1,300 sailing vessels, with a tonnage of 87,980,

in the previous year, showing a decrease of 150 steamers, 17 sailing vessels, and of a total tonnage of 85,565.

The falling off of steamers calling here is much to be regretted, inasmuch as the trade of Malta is largely dependent upon the number of vessels putting in at this port. The cause of this decrease appears to be in a great measure due to the general commercial stagnation elsewhere in Europe; but other causes may be noted, namely, the competition of the neighbouring ports of call such as Gibraltar, Algiers, and Port Said, the great increase in the dead-weight-carrying capacity of the average "tramp" steamer; the rapid displacing of the older type of steamers running to the Black Sea by new ships with triple expansion engines; the present freights, which are so low that it pays steamers much better to carry coals for long voyages rather than to call here and at other intermediate ports to fill up bunkers, as formerly, when more remunerative freights were obtainable. The disappearance of the transit trade owing to direct communications with other ports in the Mediterranean, especially with those on the African coast, has likewise contributed to produce the decline in the number of steamers calling at Malta.

GAOLS AND PRISONERS.

The total cost of the Prisons in 1895 was 3,873*l.* 18*s.* 3*d.*, as against 3,861*l.* 17*s.* 8*d.* in 1894.

Year.	Adults.		Juveniles.		Total.	Daily Average.	Annual Cost per Head.
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.			£ s. d.
1894	5,074	534	1,474	14	7,116	233	16 11 5
1895	4,628	700	1,458	17	6,803	227	17 1 3

There were 200 punishments inflicted in 1895, as against 237 in 1894, viz:—

Solitary confinement on bread and water - -	103
Dark cell on bread and water - - - -	17
Reduction from class - - - -	20
Admonished - - - - -	60

The amount of the prisoners' earnings during 1895 was 970*l.*

	£
The estimated value of labour performed outside the prison, reclaiming waste land, and cultivation of prison lands, was - - -	160
Inside the prison: mat and broom making, tailoring, carpentering, &c. - - - -	800
Sale of animals - - - - -	10
	£970

The health of the prisoners was good, 17 cases being treated in hospital; one death occurred from remittent fever.

On the 18th March the female prisoners were removed from the Asylum for Aged and Incurables to the Corradino Prison, where a ward had been specially built for them.

Criminal Statistics.

The total number of offences reported to the police or to the magistrates in 1895 was 8,007, against 8,555 in 1894.

Of the offences reported in 1895—

1,211 were for offences against the person.
45 „ „ „ the good order of families.
526 „ „ „ property.
6,225 „ other offences.

The total number of summary convictions in the Inferior Courts in 1895 was 13,312, against 13,718 in 1894.

These convictions are classified as follows:—

1,525 for offences against the person.
17 „ „ the good order of families.
566 „ „ property.
11,204 for other offences.

The convictions in Her Majesty's Criminal Court were as follows:—

53 for offences against the person.
15 „ „ the good order of families.
22 „ „ property.
11 for other offences.

Of the above convictions, two were for murder, three for manslaughter, and one for attempt of murder.

The acquittals were as follows:—

In the Inferior Courts - -	918
In the Superior Courts - - -	73

METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS.

The following table shows the mean temperature and rainfall for the year :—

Month.	Temperature	Rainfall.
	Fahr.	Inches.
January - - -	54·9°	1·44
February - -	56·1	1·06
March - - -	58·7	0·65
April - - -	65·5	0·15
May - - -	68·9	0·65
June - - -	74·3	—
July - - -	81·8	—
August - - -	81·7	0·57
September - -	77·2	0·15
October - - -	74·4	0·92
November - -	68·6	2·28
December -	59·8	3·05
Total Year -	68·5	10·92

It is generally admitted that the climate of Malta is equable and very healthy in winter. From November to April the average temperature is between 54 and 68, and refreshing sea breezes prevail during the summer months, which make the nights pleasant and cool, except during the prevalence of the sirocco wind.

The lowest air temperature recorded in 1895 was 41° Fahr. on the 19th February, and the highest 92° on the 5th July.

The sanitary condition of the towns and suburbs was very good. The health of the Islands was also good, no disease of a contagious or infectious character having appeared during the year 1895.

I have, &c.

G. STRICKLAND,

Chief Secretary to Government.

COLONIAL REPORTS.—ANNUAL.

No. 196.

MALTA.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1896.

(For Report for 1895, *see* No. 172.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
July 1897.

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COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other, reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained for a few pence from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
169	Zululand	1895
170	Sierra Leone	"
171	Gibraltar	"
172	Malta	"
173	Barbados	"
174	Turks and Caicos Islands	"
175	Falkland Islands	"
176	St. Helena	"
177	Bahamas	"
178	Hong Kong	"
179	Windward Islands	"
180	Labuan	"
181	Trinidad and Tobago	"
182	Seychelles	"
183	Mauritius and Rodrigues	1894 and 1895
184	British Honduras	1895
185	Lagos	"
186	Basutoland	1895–96
187	Ceylon	1895
188	British Guiana	1895–96
189	Gold Coast	1895
190	Jamaica	1895–96
191	Canada	1895
192	Bermuda	1896
193	Bahamas	"
194	Zululand	"
195	Gambia	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada	Emigration.
5	Bahamas	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific	Solomon Islands.

No. 196.

MALTA.

(For Report for 1895, *see* No. 172 of this Series.)

GOVERNOR SIR A. J. LYON FREMANTLE to Mr. CHAMBERLAIN.

SIR, The Palace, Valletta, May 31, 1897.

I HAVE the honour to forward, herewith, for your information, the Chief Secretary's Report on the Blue Book for the year 1896.

2. The printing of the Blue Book will soon be completed, and copies will be transmitted to you at the earliest opportunity.

I have, &c.

ARTHUR LYON FREMANTLE,
Governor.

Chief Secretary's Office, Valletta,
SIR, May 25, 1897.

I HAVE the honour to submit to your Excellency the following report on the Malta Blue Book for the year 1896.

FINANCES.

Revenue.

The revenue collected from all sources during 1896 amounted to 313,680*l.* 14*s.* 7*d.*, an increase of 8,240*l.* 0*s.* 3¼*d.* over the revenue of 1895, which was also larger than that collected in any previous year.

The following table shows the receipts under each head of revenue for the year 1896 compared with those collected in 1895:—

Heads of Revenue.	1896.	1895.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Customs	176,457 6 1	168,729 3 7	7,728 2 6	—
Harbour and Quarantine Dues	8,270 5 0	8,905 14 2	—	635 9 2
Licences, Court fines, &c.	5,633 18 1½	5,605 5 5¼	28 12 7¼	—
Fees and Reimbursements	21,155 9 0¾	22,623 1 4¾	—	1,467 12 4
Post Office	13,233 6 9	13,337 17 9	—	104 11 0
Railway	7,020 16 3	5,963 2 0	1,057 14 3	—
Water Service	9,006 14 7½	8,316 19 9	689 14 10½	—
Electric Lighting	346 17 3	—	346 17 3	—
Rents, rural	13,308 2 9½	13,368 9 10	—	60 7 0¾
Rents, urban	27,713 3 4¾	27,233 16 6	479 6 10¾	—
Rents on account of charitable institutions.	4,042 7 6¾	3,980 17 9¾	61 9 9	—
Interest	27,492 7 8½	27,376 6 0½	116 1 8	—
Total	313,680 14 7	305,440 14 3¾	10,507 19 10	2,267 19 6¾
Increase	—	—	8,240 0 3½	—

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From the above it will be seen that the items of revenue which contributed principally to the increase were:—(*a*) Customs, (*b*) Railway, (*c*) Water Service, (*d*) Electric Lighting, (*e*) Urban Rents, and (*f*) Interest; and that decrease of revenue occurred under heads (*a*) Harbour and Quarantine Dues, (*b*) Fees and Reimbursements, (*c*) Post Office, and (*d*) Rural Rents.

The revenue, as compared with the forecast estimate for the year, shows a decrease of 8,162*l.* 5*s.* 5*d.* This decrease was caused by the fact that the contemplated schemes for making the pilots and the public weighers salaried Government servants, and thereby collecting such fees for the credit of public revenue, were not approved by the Council of Government, and were not, therefore, carried into execution.

The increase in the Customs receipts (*a*) was due in a small part to a larger consumption of wines, spirits, and beer, and in a large extent to an expansion of the import duties on cattle, chiefly consequent to larger number of cattle introduced, and to the fact that under Ordinance No. 1 of 1896 the duty on cattle declared to have been imported for the use of the Military and Naval Departments became payable before the animals passed through the Customs, whilst in previous years such payments of duty used to be suspended. As a matter of fact the increase of revenue under this latter item must, to a great extent, be counterbalanced by a larger expenditure under drawbacks. It is to be noticed, on the other hand, that the import duties on grain suffered last year an appreciable reduction owing to a lessened importation of wheat, which is being supplanted by a larger introduction of flour.

The receipts of the Railway Department (*b*) continue to show considerable expansion, owing especially to greater traffic in consequence of the now fully occupied military barracks at "Imtarfa." There is every prospect that when the extension of the line to "Imtarfa" is completed the returns under this head will be even larger than at present. The following figures show the revenue of the railway for the last three years:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
In 1894 - - -	5,603	17	0
„ 1895 - -	5,963	2	0
„ 1896 - - -	7,020	16	3

The water service (*c*), which is another undertaking yielding revenue, realised an increase of 689*l.* 14*s.* 10½*d.* The revenue under this head tends steadily to increase as householders and the general public become alive to the importance of having at their command pure and wholesome water. It has repeatedly been stated that, looking at the large capital laid out on the water-works and the yearly increasing expenditure for the improvement of the water supply, it is not possible for this municipal enterprise to become commercially remunerative. But it is, at any rate, gratifying to note that the receipts accruing on account of water

supplied and meter rent are progressively expanding, as shown by the following figures —

	£	s.	d.
In 1894 - - -	5,849	13	9½
„ 1895 - -	6,701	3	10
„ 1896 - - -	7,442	7	5

A new item of revenue appears for the first time in the last year's revenue accounts for electric lighting (*d*). The installation was only partially put into operation on the 1st December, and the amount received as revenue represents only half a month's proportion of the expense hitherto incurred for street lighting by gas. Before the whole installation is in complete working order, and the supply of electricity extended to military barracks and public buildings, it would be premature to offer any remarks as to the financial bearing of this municipal undertaking.

In dealing with the subject of the revenue derivable from the landed estate of the Government (*e*) it was stated in former reports that the letting value of the immovable property administered by the Government had almost reached its maximum, and that there was apparently little room for its further expansion, whilst the Government must be prepared to expect a further diminution of the revenue from agricultural lettings. The urban property still holds steadily to its present market value, but the rural lettings are gradually tending towards a reduced rental, as will be seen from the following figures :—

	Urban Property.			Rural Property.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
In 1894 - - -	27,429	3	0¾	13,496	16	1¼
„ 1895 - - - -	27,233	16	6	13,368	9	10
„ 1896 - - -	27,713	3	4¾	13,308	2	9¼

The small increase under Interest (*f*) is due to a new item of revenue derived from the interest payable on sums advanced for electric lighting installation, and to a larger profit on the savings bank transactions. On the other hand, other items under this head of revenue have yielded a smaller return than in the previous year, owing chiefly to the sale of consols and to the repayment of part of the Monte Loan.

The decreases shown in the foregoing comparative statement are accounted for as follows :—

The decrease under Harbour and Quarantine Dues (*a*) is attributable to the decreasing number of arrivals of steam vessels

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in our harbours. The following are the amounts derived from tonnage dues in the last three years:—

	£	s.	d.
In 1894 - - -	8,326	19	9
„ 1895 - - -	7,685	7	3
„ 1896 - - -	6,955	19	6

The decrease of 1,467*l.* 12*s.* 4*d.*, under the head of Fees and Reimbursements (*b*) was chiefly caused by smaller returns against the items of store rent and wages of revenue guards in the Customs department, consequent to the falling off of trade generally during the year; to a reduced proportion in the receipts of fees in the Superior Court, which depend on the number of cases brought before the Court; and to a decrease of certain services in the military and civil abattoirs. The other items under this head of revenue have, however, kept up to the normal standard, and indeed some of them, such as fees for treatment in hospitals and public registry fees, gave larger returns than in the preceding year.

The Post Office revenue was less than that of 1895 by 104*l.* 11*s.*; but, as a matter of fact, the chief item, which is that of sale of stamps, gave a return larger than that of the previous year by 1,392*l.* 17*s.* 10½*d.* The apparent diminution on the whole revenue of the department was caused by the fact that in 1895, arrear transit rates had been received from foreign postal departments, which had the effect of swelling the revenue of that year to more than its normal proportion. Setting aside this circumstance, it may safely be asserted that the postal department, although it does not yet entirely repay its cost, is steadily earning a revenue which it may be hoped will before long make it entirely self-supporting, as may be gleaned from the following figures:—

	£	s.	d.
In 1894 - - -	11,685	1	11
„ 1895 - -	13,337	17	9
„ 1896 - - -	13,233	6	9

The cause of the diminution of revenue from Rural Rents (*d*) has been commented upon in former reports. The general agricultural depression has undergone no improvement, and there are no perceptible prospects so far of any immediate improvement.

Expenditure.

The provisions voted for expenditure by the Council, or granted by special authority of the head of the Government, out of the

revenue of 1896, amounted in the aggregate to 361,341*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.*, viz. :—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
For personal emoluments - - -	132,877	17	6
For other charges - - -	228,463	15	0
Total - -	361,341	12	6

The amount actually expended was 308,902*l.* 14*s.* 4¾*d.* or 4,778*l.* 0*s.* 2¼*d.* less than the revenue of the year, and 52,438*l.* 18*s.* 1¼*d.* below the total amount of the provisions taken. The following return gives a detail of the expenditure incurred by each department in 1896, compared with that of the preceding year :—

Heads of Expenditure.	1896.	1895.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*
Charges on account of interest and burthens.	19,544 15 7¼	20,126 3 10	—	581 8 2¾
Pensions - - - -	15,952 16 9	15,399 4 5	553 12 4	—
The Governor and Legislature -	5,167 17 4	4,752 2 10	415 14 6	—
Chief Secretary's Department -	4,239 16 8	4,134 9 5	105 7 3	—
Receiver-General and Director of Contracts.	2,939 7 11	2,890 4 3	49 3 8	—
Customs and Port Department -	10,821 5 0	10,674 16 3	146 8 9	—
Audit Department - -	1,648 11 3	1,617 19 3	30 12 0	—
Printing Office - - -	1,144 5 4	1,138 18 1	5 7 3	—
Railway Department - -	5,656 0 4	5,745 19 8	—	89 19 4
Railway Department, special expenditure.	1,100 17 9	1,942 16 0	—	841 18 3
Legal Department - - -	19,530 3 6	18,605 2 1	925 1 5	—
Police - - - -	38,709 5 5	37,897 2 0	812 3 5	—
Public Health Department -	11,135 11 6	10,887 13 11½	247 17 6½	—
Prisons - - - -	3,720 14 8	3,637 14 2	83 0 6	—
Charitable Institutions, including the Monte di Pietà.	42,403 18 5¾	41,191 16 3	1,212 2 2¾	—
Education - - - -	21,756 19 1	21,414 9 8	342 9 5	—
Post Office - - - -	12,700 19 3	13,737 11 5	—	1,036 12 2
Ecclesiastical expenditure -	713 12 8	1,240 0 2	—	526 7 6
Military expenditure - -	5,000 0 0	5,000 0 0	—	—
Miscellaneous services - -	9,748 8 6½	10,628 17 8½	—	880 9 2
Superintendent of Works Dept.	5,519 17 9	6,196 16 6	—	676 18 9
Waterworks and Electric Lighting Department.	12,753 19 6	—	12,753 19 6	—
Public Works recurrent - -	40,987 13 6¾	49,200 17 9¾	—	8,213 4 2¾
Public Works extraordinary -	16,005 16 6¼	13,490 1 1	2,515 15 5¼	—
Total - - -	308,902 14 4¾	301,550 16 9¾	20,198 15 2¾	12,846 17 7¼
Increase - - -	—	—	7,351 17 7½	—

MALTA. 1896.

The comparative yearly expenditure of this Government for the last three years is given in the following table:—

Year.	Personal Emoluments.	Other Charges.	Total.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1894 - -	112,965 0 6	178,717 1 10	291,682 2 4
1895 - - -	118,607 1 2	182,943 15 7¼	301,550 16 9¼
1896 - -	123,091 18 7	185,810 15 9¾	308,902 14 4¾

It is well to preface the remarks on the expenditure of 1896, by noting that during the year a new sub-department of "Water-works and Electric Lighting" was installed, and that the expenditure connected with that sub-department was segregated and accounted for separately from that of the Public Works Department. The total amount of such expenditure was 12,753*l.* 19*s.* 6*d.*, which, excluding the new item of expense on account of the electric lighting, carried with it a proportionate reduction in the expenditure of the Public Works Department under heads of service Nos. 19 and 20.

Independently of the above fact, the heads of service under which an appreciable increase of expenditure was incurred in 1896 are the following:—(*a*) Pensions; (*b*) The Governor and Legislature; (*c*) Legal Department; (*d*) Police; (*e*) Public Health Department; (*f*) Charitable Institutions; (*g*) Education; and (*h*) Public Works Extraordinary.

The circumstances which chiefly gave rise to an augmented expenditure under the above enumerated heads of service, were in each case the following:—

(*a*) The large number of pensions awarded during the year; (*b*) the fact that the unofficial members of the Executive Council were only appointed in February 1896, the places having been vacant in 1895, and increases of salaries to the stenographers; (*c*) the large number of cases in the Criminal Court and Courts of Judicial Police; (*d*) the supply of new helmets and belts to the police force; (*e*) the employment of an additional quarantine medical officer, and increased expenditure for transport; (*g*) the increase of salaries to assistant teachers of the primary schools, and establishment of several night schools; and (*f*) the cost of the charitable institutions, for the maintenance of which a large part of the public revenue is annually appropriated, which in 1896 amounted to 42,403*l.* 18*s.* 5¾*d.*, or 1,212*l.* 2*s.* 2¾*d.* in excess of that of the preceding year. This increased expenditure was caused by the issue of a larger quantity of provisions and clothing and bedding materials in the hospitals as compared with last year.

The following figures show the total expenditure for the charitable institutions in the last three years:—

	£	s.	d.
In 1894 - - -	42,341	3	5
In 1895 - -	41,191	16	3
In 1896 - - -	42,403	18	5¾

With reference to Public Works extraordinary (*h*) the increase of the expenditure depended on a greater quantity of works performed during the year.

The heads of service on account of which the expenditure incurred was below that of the preceding year were the following:—(*a*) Interest and Burthens; (*b*) Railway, including special expenditure; (*c*) Post Office; (*d*) Ecclesiastical Department; (*e*) Miscellaneous Services; and (*f*) Public Works Department and Recurrent Works.

Such diminution of expenditure was due, as regards (*a*) Interest and Burthens—to unclaimed capitals of the Massa Frumentaria, the sale of consols on account of Savings Bank, and the termination of the annual instalment on account of Reserve Fund A.; (*b*) Railway—to the fact that only a portion of the cost of locomotive No. 8 was paid during the year; (*c*) Post Office—to the non-payment of the transit rates due to foreign postal departments; (*d*) Ecclesiastical—to the suppression of the salary of the Chaplain to Government; (*e*) Miscellaneous—to diminished expenditure on certain items of a fluctuating nature, and the absence in 1896 of other special expenditure as compared with the requirements of the preceding year.

The decreased expenditure for the staff of the Public Works Department and for Recurrent Works (*f*) was caused, as already stated, by the separation of the accounts of the branch of the water works and electric lighting from those of this department. Irrespectively of the above circumstance, the expenditure on public works, exclusive of the staff, was during the year as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
Annually recurrent - -	40,987	13	6¾
Extraordinary works - -	16,005	16	6½
Total - - -	56,993	10	1¼

Among the several items of expenditure for extraordinary public works, exclusive of those the cost of which was defrayed out of the Immovable Property Fund, the following are the most important, viz.:—

	£	s.	d.
1. Towards constructing a new abattoir	2,692	8	8
2. Remodelling and constructing roads, streets, moles and bridges	2,174	15	9
3. Water works (exclusive of maintenance)	6,940	14	11
4. Drainage works (exclusive of maintenance)	955	9	2
5. Improving property	1,116	4	4
6. Towards constructing an asylum for lepers	369	5	4
7. Improving palaces, public buildings, offices, and schools	783	1	6½
Total	15,031	19	8½

During the year under review, the following were the provisions voted under Ordinance V. of 1891, chargeable to the immovable property account for the works hereunder stated, viz.:—

	£	s.	d.
Railway extension from Notabile to Imtarfa	15,000	0	0
Improving central station at Hamrun and extending railway technical school	500	0	0
Cost of site and erection of a school house at Cospicua	6,000	0	0
Total	21,500	0	0

Out of the above votes and the balances carried forward from the provisions taken in the previous years under the said ordinance, the items of expenditure incurred in 1896 were:—

	£	s.	d.
Railway works	5,103	9	4
Establishment of lighting by electricity	19,808	19	1½
Improvement of property yielding rent	155	18	10
Building court house, police station, and dispensary at Casal Zeitun	519	17	11
Building new school house at Rabato	211	5	1
Building school at Victoria, Gozo	9	4	8
Total	25,808	14	11½

leaving an unexpended balance of 31,884*l.* 7*s.* 11¾*d.* standing to the credit of the works voted out of this fund in the various estimates.

The balance standing to the credit of the Immovable Property Account (both Government and Pious Foundations) on the 31st December 1896 was 8,842*l.* 15*s.* 3½*d.*

Before concluding, I may state, in connexion with the Public Works Department, that a redistribution of the stores of that department was made during the year under review, separating those to be appropriated for the water works and electric lighting from the general stock of the public works. The relative value represented by the stores on charge on the 31st December 1896, was:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Public works - - -	1,035	8	2½
Water works - - -	4,030	19	10
Total - - -	5,066	8	0½

LEGISLATION.

The Council met on the 22nd January, and held 22 sittings between that date and the 18th December, when it was adjourned to the 17th February 1897.

Of the 10 Acts passed during the year, Ordinances Nos. I., II., III., IX., and X. are the only Acts which call for special notice.

Ordinance No. I. of 1896, being an Ordinance "To amend the "Ordinance promulgated by Proclamation No. VIII. of 3rd "November 1837."

By this Ordinance, power is given to the Collector of Customs to levy, on account of the Government, instead of 10*s.* per head "on bullocks and other animals of the kind," established by Proclamation No. VIII. of 1837, a duty of 4*s.* per cantar (of 175 lbs.), and for every fraction of cantar, not inferior to one pound (of 16 ounces) in proportion, on each head of live cattle (bulls, oxen, and calves) imported into these islands; and a duty at the rate of 4*s.* per 175 lbs. on any live sheep (ram, ewe, wether or lamb) imported.

The operation of this Ordinance is limited to three years to be reckoned from the 6th March 1896.

Ordinance No. II. of 1896, entitled an Ordinance "to im- "pose a duty on imported meat and to make provisions respecting "the importation thereof," empowers the Collector of Customs to levy on importation into these islands a duty of 10*s.* per cantar of 175 lbs. on all fresh, frozen, or preserved meat (beef or mutton) with the exception of meat preserved by salt only.

Article 3 of the Ordinance establishes that no fresh or frozen meat will be allowed to be imported unless a certificate be produced by the importer, stating that no cattle disease of any sort was known to exist in the district where the animal was slaughtered, and that the animals were inspected by a qualified veterinary surgeon and were found in good health. The certificate is to be signed by the British Consular authority, and,

where there be no such authority, by the proper Government officer or municipal authority of the district where the animal was slaughtered.

The Collector of Customs is also empowered by Art. 9 of the Ordinance to levy, on all kinds of preserved meat placed in deposit, a store rent of half per cent. *ad valorem* for every six months payable in advance.

The amount of refund of duty payable by the Government of these islands to the Imperial Government on each and all head of live cattle or sheep disposed of by the Imperial authorities, is, in all cases, calculated on the amount of duty paid on such head of cattle or sheep as recorded in the records of the Custom House against the number assigned to each animal on its importation, and in accordance with the weight of the animal at the time when duty was paid thereon; and, in the case of imported meat, on the amount of duty paid on each piece of meat as recorded in the records of the Custom House against the number assigned to each piece on its importation.

Ordinance No. III. of 1896, "to abolish the office of syndic, " and to make some provisions relating to the courts and to the " magistrates of judicial police for Malta."

By this Ordinance the office of syndic and the syndics' courts for the country districts of Malta are abolished, and the head of the Government is authorised to transfer, wholly or partly, to one or more officers, the administrative duties of the office of syndic in one or more country districts. The court of judicial police for Malta, as a court of criminal judicature, may sit in the country districts in certain criminal cases, and it may also exercise its jurisdiction in the said districts, as a court of criminal instruction, and, as a court of civil jurisdiction, the court of judicial police for Malta may likewise sit in each of the country districts for the hearing and the decision of civil cases within its competence.

At the end of Article 369 of the criminal laws, which provides that "all the proceedings of the courts of judicial police shall be " written in the Italian language," the following provision is added by the amending Ordinance: "Nevertheless, whenever the " only person accused or all the persons accused be British " subjects, not being native or naturalised Maltese, the court " may, on application from any one of the persons accused, " permit that the oral proceedings in the cause be conducted in " the English language."

This addition affords British subjects not domiciled in Malta, when summoned before the police court, the benefit of being able to follow all the proceedings in their case; they will understand what is said by their own counsel and by the witnesses for the prosecution or in the defence, and, when the sentence is given may learn the grounds upon which they have been sentenced or released in a language which they understand, viz., in English instead of Italian.

Ordinance No. IX. of 1896, being an Ordinance "for applying " out of the general reserve fund a sum not exceeding 11,359*l.*

" to the service of the year 1897." This measure was passed to appropriate for the service of the financial year 1897 the following sums:—Towards the construction of an asylum for lepers, the sum of 2,000*l.*, total cost of the asylum being estimated at 9,537*l.*; towards building an infirmary in the male division of the lunatic asylum, 1,600*l.*, total cost 2,001*l.*; for constructing a basin for boats and other craft at Marsa, 3,419*l.*; 1,000*l.* towards the construction of a camber for boats near the Custom House, total cost being 4,708*l.*; 500*l.* towards the construction of a chapel in the asylum for aged and incurables, estimated cost 5,000*l.*, and 1,840*l.* for constructing a quarantine establishment on Comino Island.

Ordinance No. X. of 1896, being an ordinance " to amend the " provisions of Articles 427, 517, 518, 519, 520, 524, and 529 of " the criminal laws." All these articles have reference to jurors and to the procedure in trials by jury.

The principal alteration made by the amending Ordinance is that contained in Art. 524, which provides that, if the cause before the court should appear to be of such a nature as to require a long trial, the court may order, before the drawing of the jurors' names, the drawing of other three names; and the three jurors whose names shall have been the last to be drawn, shall be supplementary jurors, and shall attend at the trial of the cause; all the provisions of the law relating to the jury and to the jurors shall apply to them, but they shall not be present at any deliberation, nor shall they take any part therein, save in the case of the death or inability to continue to serve on the part of any one of the other jurors, in which case (the Court having decided as to the lawfulness of the cause of the inability) the substitution shall be made in the same order in which the names of the supplementary jurors may have been drawn.

In case of the death or incapacity to serve of the foreman, his duties shall be discharged by one of the remaining jurors to be designated by the court.

The necessity of this Ordinance has long been felt, but it was made apparent and urgent by an incident that occurred in the trial of a case of murder before Her Majesty's Criminal Court in November last, when, after two days hearing of the case, two of the jurors fell suddenly ill; the jury had consequently to be discharged and the trial put off without any advantage to the accused and certainly with great prejudice to the interests of the administration of justice.

CIVIL ESTABLISHMENT.

The Hon. Major-General Henry Parnell, C.B. (now Lord Congleton) administered the Government during the absence on leave of his Excellency the Governor, from 18th August to the 24th September, and Major-General John Fletcher Owen, R.A., on the 30th October last.

The Hon. F. Vella, C.M.G., acted as Chief Secretary to Government during the absence on leave of the Chief Secretary from 12th July to the 1st October, the ordinary duties of his office as Collector of Customs and Superintendent of the Ports having been performed by his deputy.

There were no changes of importance in the civil establishment during the year.

POPULATION.

The population of Malta and Gozo was estimated by the Public Health Department at 176,231, as follows:—

Civil population on 1st January 1896 -	172,620
Increment in civil population, between 1st January and 31st December 1896, due to excess of births over deaths - -	1,392
Excess in number of arrivals in Malta over departures - - - -	563
Members of the families of persons in military employment - - - -	1,656
Total on 31st December 1896 -	176,231

The population is distributed as follows:—

British subjects domiciled in Malta - -	172,334
British subjects not born in Malta - -	2,092
Foreigners - - - - -	1,805
	176,231

The births, 6,440, (including the families of persons in military employment) during the year, were at the rate of 37 per 1,000 of the population; of the births 3,330 were males and 3,110 females.

4,906 deaths (still-born not included, but including deaths in families of persons in military employment) were registered, being in the proportion of 28 to each 1,000 of the estimated population, against 25·41 in 1895, and showing an increase of 1,008.

There can be no doubt that the ordinary climatic condition of these islands is very favourable to health; but the sanitary condition calls for improvement; the drainage outside the fortified towns leaves much to be desired, and there are still portions of the drainage in the cities requiring some modifications in order to improve the sanitary condition of the harbours; but now that the Council has voted the necessary funds for a comprehensive scheme of drainage throughout the island and in Gozo, it is hoped that in proportion as the works are carried out, the sanitary condition of the Colony will be gradually improved.

The number of marriages registered during the year amounted to 1,022, showing an increase, compared with the previous year, of 14.

SAVINGS BANK.

The returns for 1896 show that the deposits during the year were 115,545*l.*, and the withdrawals 97,184*l.*, and that the amount of deposits on the 31st December 1896 was 498,536*l.*, an increase of 25,494*l.* over that of last year. The number of depositors increased in Malta and Gozo by 320 and 19, respectively. The expense of management and interest credited to depositors in 1896 amounted to 7,994*l.*, while the revenue from interest on investments was 12,370*l.*, showing a net profit of 4,376*l.* on the year's transactions.

EDUCATION.

The following return of the Educational Department, showing the average annual cost per student in average attendance, is calculated on the expenditure for the years 1894, 1895, and 1896. The figures, however, do not show the total expenditure per scholar; they only concern salaries, cost of administration, rent, minor works, and other charges for the maintenance of the schools in these islands, but do not include the sums which have been spent on building new schools or on making alterations or extraordinary repairs in existing schools.

		Average Attendance.	Average cost per Student.
	£ *s.* *d.*		£ *s.* *d.*
University - - -	3,689 4 0	132	27 18 11½
Lyceum - - - -	2,993 1 6	447	6 13 11
Secondary School, Malta - -	172 8 0	142	1 4 3
Secondary School, Gozo - -	240 0 0	48	5 0 0
Elementary day schools - -	13,976 0 6	10,195	1 7 5
Elementary night schools - -	729 5 6	966	0 15 1
Technical and manual schools -	160 5 6	13	12 6 7

Total average expenditure 21,960*l.* 5*s.*, or about one-fourteenth of the average total revenue of the island for the last three years.

The total expenditure in 1896 was 21,756*l.* 19*s.* 1*d.*, of which 18,641*l.* 3*s.* 10*d.* personal emoluments and 3,115*l.* 15*s.* 3*d.* other charges; and 776*l.* 0*s.* 4*d.* being the income from students' fees, examination fees, &c., the difference, 20,980*l.* 18*s.* 9*d.*, is, therefore, the net expenditure of the Education Department in 1896, being about one-fifteenth of the total revenue and over one-fourteenth of the total expenditure of the Colony for that year.

The number of elementary day schools remained the same as it was in 1895, viz.:—

Boys', including the model - - -	38
Girls' " " " - - -	39
Infants' - - - - -	5
Mixed infants' - - - -	17

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Four more night schools were opened in Malta and one in Gozo during the past year, making now a total of 25 schools in Malta and 4 in Gozo, attended by grown-up lads and young men of the working classes, who receive elementary instruction after their day's work.

The following schools in Malta are also maintained by the Government, viz. :—

Five boys' day drawing schools;
Four „ evening „
Four girls' day „
One wood-carving and modelling school, and
One Sunday school.

In addition to the above, and besides garrison schools and a dockyard school, there are 126 other private schools attended by 3,763 pupils in Malta and Gozo not receiving any aid from Colonial funds.

The attendance in the elementary schools during the scholastic year 1895–96 is stated in the Vice-Chancellor's report to the Senate of the University to have been 84·5 per cent. of the number (13,386) on the roll of the elementary schools, and 69·5 per cent to enrolment (2,350) in the night schools. The general average of per-centage of passes was 91·7 against 90·4 in 1894–95.

The number of children who left the different elementary schools during the past year was 3,848; 4,159 were admitted, and 6,481, against 6,292 in the previous year, remain on the books as seeking admission, 6,009 in the day schools, and 472 in the night schools.

It is obvious from the above that the question of the supply of school accommodation becomes ever more serious. Great efforts have, indeed, been made of late to improve the school buildings and to provide new ones, and these deserve to be recorded. A large school, in fact, was opened at Rabato in September 1896, and was found sufficient to accommodate all the children seeking admission in that district, and a provision of 6,000*l.* for cost of a site and expenditure for building thereon a school at Cospicua has also been sanctioned by the Council of Government. The Government is still very far from having overtaken the demand for school accommodation in these islands. This is evident, and the more evident it becomes, the more apparent and urgent it may appear to the representatives of the people that it is a duty on their part to furnish the Government with the necessary means.

From the report of the Director of Education to the Senate it likewise appears that the present supply of the means of training teachers for elementary schools is not adequate to meet the requirements for efficient elementary instruction. While expressing his opinion that the training school has worked remarkably well since its establishment in 1888, the Director states that "it "is highly desirable to prepare teachers to take charge in future

"of the chief schools more thoroughly, and to better qualify "them by the experience that would be gained by a residence of "two years in a training college in England."

This suggestion cannot but commend itself to the serious attention of the Government, and of all those who have education in Malta at heart, for doubtless one of the first and best means for promoting efficient elementary education is to place duly and properly equipped teachers in all the schools of these islands. And what better equipment can a teacher possess than a course of preparation in such institutions as are specially organised to train persons in the theory and practice of education?

The unsatisfactory condition of education in Malta having for some time past been the subject of public complaint and of anxiety to the Government, the Council, induced by recent events to grapple with this important question in a practical manner, had, in December last, appointed a Select Committee to inquire into and report upon the organisation of the Education Department, and on any reform that may have become necessary in the present law by which that Department is regulated. It is hoped that the earnest labours of the Committee, aided by the cordial support of all parties concerned, will finally lead to a satisfactory solution of this vital question in the interest both of the present and of the future generations of the people of Malta.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

The value of imports in 1896 was 10,472,139*l.*, against 13,099,978*l.* in 1895, showing a decrease of 2,627,839*l.*

The value of the imports from the United Kingdom and other countries respectively in 1895 and 1896 is shown in the following table:—

	1895.	1896.
	£	£
United Kingdom - - - -	174,350	143,629
British Colonies - - - -	324,916	129,716
Her Majesty's ships - - - -	236	414
Foreign Countries - - - -	12,600,476	10,198,380
Total - - -	13,099,978	10,472,139

Of the imports in 1896, 885,315*l.* represent the value of cargoes imported and actually landed at this port, and 9,586,824*l.*, the value of cargoes which merely touched at this port and were re-exported in the same vessels. Again, of the value of imports

landed in Malta, 43,276*l.* represent the value of articles exported, so that the sum of 842,039*l.* is the value of goods imported for local consumption, against 748,720*l.* in the previous year.

The principal imports from the United Kingdom in 1896, exclusive of goods not subject to duty, were—beer, valued at 71,769*l.*; beef, 12,565*l.*; manufactured wheat, 25,588*l.*; potatoes, 19,838*l.*; spirits, 5,823*l.*; oil, 3,710*l.*; and wine, 1,423*l.*

Beef, valued at 38,225*l.*, is the principal article imported from the British Colonies.

The principal imports from foreign countries were—cattle, valued at 27,354*l.*, and spirits, valued at 23,645*l.*, from Austria-Hungary; spirits, 3,303*l.*, from Belgium and Holland; manufactured grain 21,865*l.*, cattle 2,013*l.*, spirits 1,514*l.*, and wine 1,461*l.*, from France; cattle 3,800*l.*, from Algiers; wine 26,752*l.*, and seeds 6,787*l.*, from Greece; wine 77,414*l.*, pulse 28,429*l.*, oil 23,806*l.*, seeds 11,950*l.*, potatoes 7,831*l.*, and manufactured grain 2,000*l.*, from Italy; wheat 153,472*l.*, and cattle 82,159*l.*, from Russia; wine 30,437*l.*, pulse 13,273*l.*, seeds 8,770*l.*, saggina, 6,977*l.*, and cattle 4,558*l.*, from Turkey; cattle 75,791*l.*, oil 8,779*l.*, and horses 2,233*l.*, from Barbary; cattle 20,902*l.*, oil 3,436*l.*, horses 1,980*l.*, and pulse 1,602*l.*, from Tunis.

EXPORTS.

The value of the exports in 1896 was 11,886,149*l.* Compared with 1895, this shows a decrease of 1,345,664*l.*

The following table shows the value of the exports to the United Kingdom and other countries, respectively, in 1895 and 1896:—

	1895.	1896.
	£	£
United Kingdom - - - -	2,859,870	2,359,890
British Colonies - - - -	3,317,533	2,899,046
Her Majesty's ships - - - -	6,817	3,181
Foreign Countries - - - -	7,047,593	6,624,032
Total - - -	13,231,813	11,886,149

Of the total exports in 1896, the sum of 11,842,873*l.* is the value of whole cargoes carried in ships which merely touched at

this port and proceeded, and 43,276*l.* the value of the exports from portions of cargoes which were actually landed.

The principal exports to the United Kingdom in 1896 were—wheat, valued at 2,074,682*l.*, against 2,282,041*l.* in 1895; Indian corn 72,987*l.*, against 81,482*l.* in 1895; barley 502,663*l.*, against 203,272*l.*, and inferior grain 148,083*l.*, against 313,781*l.* in 1895. The same articles, together with wine and spirits, valued at 2,834*l.* and 22,687*l.* respectively, were the principal exports to foreign countries.

SHIPPING.

In the following tables particulars are given of the entries and clearances of shipping in Malta during the years 1895 and 1896:—

Entered.

British or Foreign.	Steam or Sailing.	Number.		Tonnage Entered.	
		1895.	1896.	1895.	1896.
British - -	Steam - -	1,802	1,556	2,599,630	2,312,640
„ - -	Sailing - -	118	109	10,313	10,856
Foreign - -	Steam - -	874	984	830,572	891,161
„ - -	Sailing - -	1,165	1,137	71,912	78,543
—	—	3,959	3,786	3,512,427	3,293,200
Decrease in 1896 - - -		—	173	—	219,227

Cleared.

British or Foreign.	Steam or Sailing.	Number.		Tonnage Cleared.	
		1895.	1896.	1895.	1896.
British - -	Steam - -	1,803	1,563	2,605,693	2,311,942
„ - -	Sailing - -	129	97	11,621	9,663
Foreign - -	Steam - -	873	990	828,501	895,328
„ - -	Sailing - -	1,178	1,117	75,965	74,215
—	- -	3,983	3,767	3,521,780	3,291,148
Decrease in 1896 - - -		—	216	—	230,632

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The movement of the trade during 1896 was as follows:—

Tonnage entered from		Steam.	Sailing.	Total.
United Kingdom		867,544	573	868,117
British Colonies		25,333	837	26,170
Persian Gulf	Viâ the Suez Canal.	3,417	—	3,417
China		8,326	—	8,326
Manilla		5,959	—	5,959
India		388,805	—	388,805
Australia		11,459	—	11,459
Foreign countries		1,892,958	87,989	1,980,947
Total		3,203,801	89,399	3,293,200

Tonnage Cleared.

Countries to which departed.		Steam.	Sailing.	Total.
United Kingdom		807,243	631	807,874
British Colonies		196,421	2,120	198,541
Persian Gulf	Viâ the Suez Canal.	2,045	—	2,045
Australia		1,573	—	1,573
Madagascar		27	—	27
China		31,325	—	31,325
India		310,901	—	310,901
Japan		1,864	—	1,864
Java		2,165	—	2,165
Manilla		6,245	—	6,245
Russia		3,402	—	3,402
Foreign countries		1,844,059	81,127	1,925,186
Total		3,207,270	83,878	3,291,148

GAOLS AND PRISONERS.

From the returns for the year it appears that the number of prisoners received in the gaols was 6,924, an increase of 121 over that of the previous year.

Of these, the committals for debt were	3
For the safe custody to trial	322
For purpose of penal imprisonment	6,599
	6,924

4,624 of these committals were males, 684 females, and 1,616 juveniles, nine of whom being girls.

Committals after two or more previous convictions were less during the year under review than in 1895, while those having but one previous conviction exceeded those of 1895.

The daily average number in prison was 261, against 227 in 1895.

The number of punishments inflicted in the prison were 286, viz. :—

Solitary confinement on bread and water	166
Dark cell on bread and water	10
Reduction from class	13
Admonished	97
	286

The prisoners' earnings during the year amounted to 980*l.*, viz. :—

	£
Value of labour performed outside the prison (reclaiming waste land, and produce of prison lands)	300
Inside the prison : mat and broom making, tailoring, joiner's work, &c.	670
Sale of animals	10
	£980

These earnings are lodged in the Treasury.

The health of the prisoners during the year was good; 17 cases were treated in hospital, and the deaths were two, one from nervous exhaustion and the other from phthisis.

HOSPITALS AND ASYLUMS.

On the 1st January 1896, the number of persons in the hospitals of Malta and Gozo was 268; the admissions during the year were 3,297, so that the cases treated numbered 3,565; of these 1,813 were discharged as being cured, 586 as relieved, 499 at their request, and the deaths were 402.

The following table gives the particulars relating to each hospital :—

Hospital.	In the Hospital on 1st January 1896.	Admitted during the Year.	Discharged as Cured.	Discharged as Relieved.	Discharged not Improved, and at Request.	Deaths.
Central Hospital	165	2,359	1,198	433	452	284
Seamen's Hospital	4	77	45	13	8	4
St. Spirito Hospital	62	444	314	44	37	49
Gozo Hospital	37	417	256	96	2	65
Total	268	3,297	1,813	586	499	402

The following table shows the particulars relating to each asylum:—

Asylum.	Number of Inmates Remaining on 31st December 1895.	Admitted during the Year.	Discharged.	Deaths.	Remaining on 31st December 1896.
Asylum for the Aged and Incurables, viz.:					
1. Aged and infirm -	700	164	21	133	702
2. Incurables - -	198	22	5	22	190
3. Lepers - -	17	4	1	2	18
Lunatic Asylum - -	573	115	63	34	591
Orphan Asylum - -	105	6	13	2	96
Total - -	1,593	311	103	193	1,597

CRIMINAL STATISTICS.

The number of offences reported to the police or the magistrates during the year was 9,672, an increase compared with 1895 of 1,665, and with 1894 of 1,117.

The number of persons apprehended by the police or summoned before the magistrates was 14,855, of whom 13,553 were summarily convicted, 1,115 discharged for want of evidence or otherwise acquitted, and 187 committed for trial in the Superior Courts.

Of the 13,553 persons summarily convicted, 8,450 were fined, 101 imprisoned in lieu of fine or surety, 3,934 admonished, and 1,068 were peremptorily imprisoned.

187 cases were tried in the Superior Courts during the year, and the convictions numbered 134. Of these 47 were for offences against property, 45 for offences against the person, 1 for murder, 1 for attempt at murder, 1 for malicious injuries with violence, 2 for robbery with violence, 3 for offences against the "good order of families," 1 for "false evidence," and 33 were classified under the heading of "miscellaneous offences."

METEOROLOGICAL.

From the records of the observations taken by the Rev. Father J. F. Dobson, S.J., at St. Ignatius College, it is found that the total rainfall of the Island for the year was 21·952 inches, and this was distributed over a total number of 79 days on which rain fell. The minimum of rain fell in May, 1·021 inches, the maximum in November, 5·115 inches.

The rainfall records for 1895 show 11·384 inches in 67 days, and for 1894 25·159 inches in 90 days.

The mean barometric pressure was 30·018 inches, the highest recorded being 30·597 inches on 30th January, and the lowest, 29·499 inches, on 21st December.

The highest reading of maximum thermometer was 104·8° F. on the 11th August, in sunshine it was 152·0° on the same day, and the lowest, 40·1°, on the 21st January and 18th February.

The mean temperature for the year (deduced from maximum and minimum) was 64·7°, with a mean daily range of 12·7°.

I have, &c.

G. STRICKLAND,
Chief Secretary to Government.

His Excellency
Sir Arthur J. Lyon Fremantle, K.C.M.G., C.B.,
Governor of Malta,
&c. &c. &c.

No. 243.

MALTA.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1897.

(For Report for 1896, *see* No. 196.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
October 1898.

LONDON:
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BY DARLING & SON, LTD., 1-3, GREAT ST. THOMAS APOSTLE, E.C.

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COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other, reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained for a few pence from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
213	St. Helena	1896
214	Seychelles	,,
215	Mauritius	,,
216	Cocos-Keeling and Christmas Islands ...	1897
217	Fiji	1896
218	Ceylon	,,
219	Lagos	,,
220	Gold Coast	,,
221	Labuan	,,
222	British Guiana	1896-97
223	Rodrigues	1896
224	Basutoland	1896-97
225	Jamaica	,,
226	Bechuanaland Protectorate	,,
227	Leeward Islands	1896
228	Bermuda	1897
229	Gambia	,,
230	Turks and Caicos	,,
231	Barbados	,,
232	Lagos	,,
233	St. Vincent	,,
234	Sierra Leone	,,
235	Falkland Islands	,,
236	Straits Settlements	,,
237	British New Guinea	1896–97
238	Bahamas	1897
239	St. Lucia	,,
240	St. Helena	,,
241	Trinidad and Tobago	,,
242	British Honduras	,,

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada	Emigration.
5	Bahamas	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland ...	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific ...	Solomon Islands.
9	Dominica	Agriculture.
10	Virgin Islands... ...	Condition during 1897.
11	Grenada	Agriculture in Carriacou.

No. 243.

MALTA.

(For Report for 1896, *see* No. 196.)

GOVERNOR SIR A. J. LYON FREMANTLE to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward, herewith, for your information, the Chief Secretary's Report on the Blue Book for the year 1897.

I have, &c.,

ART. FREMANTLE,
Governor.

Chief Secretary's Office,
Valletta, 2nd June 1898.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to submit to Your Excellency the following Report on the Malta Blue Book for the year 1897.

FINANCES.

Revenue.

The revenue collected from all sources in 1897 amounted to £323,787 5*s*. 10½*d*. This amount exceeds the estimate by £1,469 5*s*. 10½*d*., and it exceeds by £10,106 11*s* 3½*d*. the revenue of 1896.

The following table shows the receipts under each head of revenue compared with those collected in 1896 :—

75—750—7/98 Wt 21620 D & S—5 (B)

Heads of Revenue	Collected in 1896.	Collected in 1897.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Customs	176,457 6 1	172,707 12 1	—	3,749 14 0
Harbour and Quarantine Dues	8,270 5 0	8,522 10 3	252 5 3	—
Licences, Court Fines, &c.	5,633 18 1½	5,646 11 8¾	12 13 7¼	—
Fees and Reimbursements	21,155 9 0¾	23,113 11 0¾	1,958 2 0	—
Post Office	13,233 6 9	16,218 18 4	2,985 11 7	—
Railway	7,020 16 3	6,817 19 9¾	—	202 16 5¼
Water Service...	9,006 14 7½	10,114 7 2	1,107 12 6½	—
Electric Lighting	346 17 3	9,122 14 2	8,775 16 11	—
Rent, Rural	13,308 2 9¼	12,834 7 5¼	—	473 15 4
Rent, Urban	27,713 3 4¾	27,257 12 3¼	—	455 11 1½
Rents on account of Charitable Foundations	4,042 7 6¾	3,923 5 2¾	—	119 2 4
Interest	27,492 7 8½	27,507 16 4	15 8 7½	—
Total ... ... £	313,680 14 7	323,787 5 10½	15,107 10 6¼	5,000 19 2¾

The items of revenue which contributed principally to the increase were the following :—

(*a*) Harbour and Quarantine Dues,

(*b*) Fees and Reimbursements,

(*c*) Post Office,

(*d*) Water Service,

(*e*) Electric Lighting.

There was on the other hand a decrease of revenue under the following items :—

(*a*) Customs,

(*b*) Railway,

(*c*) Rents, Rural,

(*d*) Rents, Urban,

(*e*) Rents—Charitable Foundations.

It is a matter of gratification to observe, with reference to Harbour and Quarantine Dues (*a*), that in the year under review a larger number of vessels than in the previous years entered our harbours for coaling or for other commercial purposes, and although the amount of Tonnage Dues received over that of 1896 was not in itself large, yet it may be taken as an omen of a possible future improvement of our Harbour Trade.

The increase of £1,958 2*s*. under head "Fees and Reimbursements" (*b*) is due principally to larger returns from store rent and wages of Revenue Guards, &c., consequent to larger quantities of dutiable goods and coffee being deposited in the Government Warehouses or placed under Revenue Guards, as well as to larger receipts accrued from fees for treatment in Hospitals and Asylums, and from Public Registry Fees.

The Postal Department (*c*) earned a larger revenue than in the previous year on almost all heads. But the amount of the increase (£2,985 11*s*. 7*d*.) must not be taken as a normal standard of the general improvement of the revenue of that concern, inasmuch as that amount includes a sum representing arrears of international transit rates received in 1897 on account of 1895 and 1896 on behalf of the local Mail Steamer "Carola" which is subsidized by the Malta Government. It is, however, to be noticed that the Post Office, judging from the larger returns obtained on the sale of stamps, and the transactions on Parcel

MALTA. 1897.

Mails inwards, continues to improve its revenue, as may be seen from the following figures :—

	£	s.	d.
Revenue in 1895	13,337	17	9
„ 1896	13,233	6	9
„ 1897	16,218	18	4

The Water Service (*d*), which is another undertaking from which a source of revenue is derived, gave an increase of £1,107 12*s*. 6½*d*. The expansion of receipts accruing annually from this enterprise shows that householders are learning year after year that a supply of wholesome water is fully worth the small sacrifice they are called upon to undergo for payment of meter rent and of the water dues in excess of their gratis allowance. Commercially, this enterprise is carried on at a loss, due especially to the gratis allowance of three gallons per head per day above mentioned, but the benefit to the public health experienced by the general community counterbalances such commercial loss. The progressive expansion of this revenue is shown by the following figures :—

	£	s.	d.
In 1895 Water Dues and Meter Rents...	6,701	3	10
In 1896 „ „ ...	7,442	7	5
In 1897 „ „ ...	7,573	4	10

With regard to Electric Lighting (*e*), I stated in my last report that it was then premature to offer any remarks on the revenue derivable under that head, the installation having then commenced to operate in the last month of that year. During 1897 the receipts obtained by this new municipal undertaking amounted to £9,122 14*s*. 2*d*. ; of this sum, the largest proportion (£6,947 15*s*. 6*d*.) was paid by the Government itself for street lighting, the remaining balance representing receipts obtained from lighting military and public buildings and private establishments. The capital laid out for the installation yields an interest of 2¾ carried revenue, besides setting aside 1¼ per cent. for a Reserve and Renewal Fund. It is to be noted that the cost to the public for street lighting by the adoption of electricity as illuminant has increased, but on the other hand, it is universally admitted that by the installation of the electric light, a much superior quality and quantity of lighting power has been obtained as a set off against such increased expenditure.

The Customs revenue, unlike previous years, gave last year a diminution in its receipts amounting to £3,749 14*s*. Such

decrease is chiefly attributable to a diminution in the importation of bullocks and frozen meat, due to the abnormally large stock of frozen meat introduced in December 1896, in consequence of which no large supplies for consumption by the population were required for importation in 1897. Another cause of the decrease of the Customs duties was the reduced importation of wheat. The frequent fluctuations in the market, consequent on American speculation for raising the price of this commodity, naturally deterred local merchants from importing any considerable quantities in excess of actual requirements.

The receipts of the Railway Department have fallen off by £202 16*s.* 5¼*d.* in consequence of a decrease in the passenger traffic. No positive explanation can be given of the cause of the diminished traffic during the year, but it is supposed that the general public, after the celebration of the Diamond Jubilee festivals, did not resort in large numbers to Notabile and other villages on the occasion of the other annual festivities.

The following figures show the revenue earned by this undertaking in the last three years, viz. :—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
In 1895	5,963	2	0
In 1896	7,020	16	3
In 1897	6,817	19	9¾

With regard to the revenue derived from the landed estate of the Government, including that of the Charitable Foundations, a small diminution has been experienced which is chiefly attributable, as regards rural rents, to the existing continued agricultural depression. The decrease in the rental of urban tenements is due to the fact that a smaller number of arrears of previous years were collected in 1897, and that certain tenements previously yielding an annual rent have now been allotted free of charge for special public services. The following table shows the rental received from the landed property of the Government in the last three years :—

Year.	Urban.			Rural.		
	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*
1895	27,233	16	6	13,368	9	10
1896	27,713	3	4¾	13,308	2	9¼
1897	27,257	12	3¼	12,834	7	5¼

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EXPENDITURE.

The provisions voted for expenditure by the Legislature, or granted by Special Authority of the head of the Government, out of the revenue of the year 1897 and out of the General Reserve Fund, amounted in the aggregate to the following sums, viz. :—

	£	s.	d.
Chargeable to revenue	360,934	16	0
Chargeable to Reserve Fund ...	25,318	8	6
Total ...	£386,253	4	6

This amount was allocated in the estimates as follows :—

	£	s.	d.
For personal emoluments	132,620	12	2
Other charges and works	253,632	12	4
Total ...	£386,253	4	6

The amount actually expended was as shown hereunder :—

	£	s.	d.
Out of revenue	320,710	6	3
Out of Reserve Fund	3,963	1	7
Total ...	£324,673	7	10

The expenditure incurred out of general revenue was below the total revenue received by £3,076 19*s.* 7½*d.*, and below the total amount provided in voted estimates by £40,224 9*s.* 9*d.*

The General Reserve Fund, which had originally been instituted out of surplus revenues to meet any emergency requiring large special expenditure, commenced to be appropriated for the construction of certain works and other services which could not be defrayed out of revenue. This fund amounted at the beginning

of 1897 to £39,905 6*s.* 10¼*d.*; out of this sum £25,318 8*s.* 6*d.* were voted for certain services, of which, however, only £3,963 1*s.* 7*d.* were actually spent during the year. For the purposes of this report the expenditure chargeable to General Reserve Fund will be dealt with conjointly with that defrayed out of revenue.

The following comparative return shows in detail the expenditure incurred in 1897, under each respective head of service, exclusive of that chargeable to the Immovable Property Account:—

Heads of Expenditure.	Personal Emoluments.			Other Charges.			Total.		
	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*
1. Interest and burthens	—			17,895	1	11	17,895	1	11
2. Pensions	—			16,886	17	6	16,886	17	6
3. The Government and Legislature.	4,762	19	1	492	12	9	5,255	11	10
4. Chief Secretary ...	3,620	6	2	594	11	0	4,214	17	2
5. Receiver-General ...	2,596	5	10	486	11	10	3,082	17	8
6. Customs and Port Department.	9,011	7	4	2,647	7	7	11,658	14	11
7. Audit Department ...	1,596	10	0	67	12	8	1,664	2	8
8. Printing Office ...	1,000	18	2	115	10	1	1,116	8	3
9. Railway Department ...	2,573	1	2	3,229	5	10	5,802	7	0
9A. Railway Special Expenditure.	—			1,085	4	2	1,085	4	2
10. Legal Department ...	15,899	15	0	3,128	7	9	19,028	2	9
11 Police Department ...	33,382	8	11	5,348	4	4	38,730	13	3
11A. Public Health Department.	6,950	4	7	4,841	5	1	11,791	9	8
12. Prisons...	1,540	10	4	2,853	16	5	4,394	6	9
13. Charitable Institutions	12,242	4	8	31,765	15	6	44,008	0	2
14. Educational Department.	18,901	16	2	3,066	18	1	21,968	14	3
15. Post Office	4,375	15	4	9,507	19	8	13,883	15	0
16. Ecclesiastical Expenditure.	125	0	0	631	13	6	756	13	6
17. Military Expenditure	—			5,000	0	0	5,000	0	0
18. Miscellaneous Services	—			12,205	6	6	12,205	6	6
19. Superintendent of Public Works Department.	4,494	8	0	878	12	1	5,373	0	1
19A. Superintendent of Water Works and Electric Light Department.	4,766	18	9½	18,979	18	3½	23,746	17	1
20. Public Works annually recurrent.	—			40,337	4	7½	40,337	4	7½
21. Public Works and Water Works extraordinary.	—			10,823	19	6½	10,823	19	6½
21*a*. Special Expenditure chargeable to General Reserve Fund.	—			—			3,963	1	7
Total ...£	127,840	9	6½	192,869	16	8½	324,673	7	10

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The comparative yearly expenditure of this Government for the last three years was as follows :—

Year.	Personal Emoluments.	Other Charges.	Total.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1895	118,607 1 2	182,943 15 7¼	301,550 16 9¼
1896	123,091 18 7	185,810 15 9¾	308,902 14 4¾
1897	127,840 9 6½	196,832 18 3½	324,673 7 10

The heads of service under which an appreciable increase of expenditure was incurred in 1897 over that of the preceding year are :—

(*a*) Pensions,

(*b*) Customs and Port Department,

(*c*) Public Health Department,

(*d*) Prisons,

(*e*) Charitable Institutions,

(*f*) Post Office,

(*g*) Miscellaneous,

(*h*) Waterworks and Electric Lighting Department.

The circumstances which caused the augmented expenditure under each of the above stated heads of service were chiefly the following :—

(*a*) The high rates of pensions awarded during the year to certain Government Officers ;

(*b*) The employment of a larger number of Health Guards owing to quarantine restrictions, the allowances to Medical Officers, &c., and cost of supplies on the occasion of the landing of the troops on Comino Island, in quarantine ;

(*c*) Increase to salaries and wages of portion of the staff, and extra remunerations to certain Professional Officers, and extraordinary expenditure consequent to the transfer of the French Creek Pumping Station to another locality ;

(*d*) The high price of certain provisions ;

(*e*) The cost of the Charitable Institutions absorbs a large portion of the public revenue. The expenditure incurred last year exceeds that of 1896 by £1,604 1*s.* 8¼*d.* Such increase is due to larger number of cases treated in the Hospitals or admitted into the Asylums than in preceding years, and also to the higher price of bread in the contract for that year.

The total expenditure in each of the last three years was as follows :—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
In 1895	41,191	16	3
In 1896	42,403	18	5¾
In 1897	44,008	0	2

(*f*) The extension of the business in the Postal Department carries necessarily with it a proportionate increase of its expenditure.

The largest part of this increase is due to the fact that the Department was called upon to pay within 1897 arrears of International Transit Rates of previous years. As a matter of fact, however, the revenue earned in 1897 by the Department fully covered its expenditure.

(*g*) The increase under the head "Miscellaneous" is due to the drawback of duty for cattle and frozen meat imported for the use of the Army and Navy, which in former years used to remain in suspense, but which under Ordinance No. II. of 1896 is uniformly paid to the Customs Department by the importers, subject to be refunded as drawback to the Military and Naval Departments on certificates of disposal. The sum paid in excess of previous year for this service was, in 1897, £2,260 19*s.* 5*d.*

(*h*) As stated before, the year under review is the first in which the Installation for Electric Lighting has been in operation; it follows therefore that the expenditure under this head of service, as compared with that of the previous year, when the installation was running for only one month, must necessarily be very large. But independently of the expenditure for electricity, the Waterworks expenditure was larger in 1897 than that of the previous year, owing principally to heavier pumping during the summer months and to the purchase of a larger supply than usual of meters to meet the increasing demand for the installation of house services.

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The heads of service on account of which a diminution of expenditure was obtained during this year were the following :—

(*a*) Burthens and Interest.

(*b*) Legal Departments.

(*c* and *d*) Public Works Recurrent and Extraordinary.

As regards the first (*a*), such diminution is due principally to the smaller balance voted in 1897 as a subsidy to the formation of the General Reserve Fund, and as regards the second head (*b*), to the abolition of the situations of Syndics of the Country Districts.

The expenditure on public works, whether recurrent or extraordinary (*c* and *d*) was, during the year, the following :—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Recurrent	40,337	4	7½
Extraordinary—			
Out of revenue ... £10,823 19 6½			
Out of General Reserve Fund. 3,963 1			
	14,787	1	1½
Total	£55,124	5	9

It will be observed that, even with the addition of the works defrayed out of the General Reserve Fund, the expenditure by the Public Works Department was below that of the previous year. The provisions taken in the various estimates for recurrent and extraordinary works, including those under General Reserve Fund, amounted collectively to £97,939 14*s.*, whilst the sum actually expended was £55,124 5*s.* 9*d.*, leaving balances at the end of the year available for suspended and uncompleted works to an amount of £42,815.

The following are the most important works defrayed out of revenue and Reserve Fund (exclusive of those chargeable to the Immovable Property Account Fund) during the year, viz. :—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
(1) Towards construction of new Abattoir...	1,450	0	4
(2) Remodelling and constructing roads and streets, &c.	3,948	18	5
(3) Waterworks (exclusive of maintenance)	3,318	9	5
Carried forward	8,717	8	2

	£	s.	d.
Brought forward ...	8,717	8	2
(4) Improving property yielding rent ...	3,802	10	3½
(5) Asylum for Lepers	818	16	1
(6) Improving public buildings, including lazaretto accommodation for cattle.	4,228	2	2½
(7) Constructing and improving Customs House stores and verandahs.	1,031	18	3
(8) Improving buildings of the Charitable Institutions and Hospitals.	2,719	7	5
(9) Constructing basin for boats at the Marsa	406	14	10½
(10) Constructing camber for boats near the Custom House.	576	15	2½
(11) Constructing a quarantine establishment at Comino Island.	1,862	5	5
Total	£24,163	17	11

Immovable Property Account Fund.

The provisions voted in 1897, under Ordinance V. of 1891, as chargeable to the above fund, were the following :—

	£	s.	d.
(1) Installation of Electricity for Sliema ...	5,500	0	0
(2) Railway—Additional provision for railway carriages.	138	18	2
(3) Primary Schools—Additional provision for the new school house at Rabato.	31	16	9
Total	£5,670	14	11

The actual expenditure out of the above votes and the balances carried forward from votes taken in previous years under this fund was to the following amounts, viz. :—

	£	s.	d.
Railway Works—including extension of the line to Imtarfa.	3,354	12	7
Establishment of Lighting by Electricity ...	9,871	3	5½
New school at Hamrun	299	17	9
Court House, Police Station, &c., at Zeitun	246	10	9
Total	£13,772	4	6½

leaving unexpended balances amounting to £23,782 18*s.* 4¼*d.* as standing to the credit of the different works voted out of this fund in various estimates since the passing of the aforementioned Ordinance.

The balances standing to the credit of the fund (both Government and Pius Foundations) was, on the 31st December 1897, £5,698 18*s.* 0¼*d.*

LEGISLATION.

The Council of Government met 22 times in 1897, during the periods between the 17th February and 12th May and the 27th October and the 22nd December, when it was adjourned to the 19th January of the current year.

Of the fifteen Ordinances passed only six are of sufficient importance to require notice in this report, the others being for the most part of a formal character and such as contained amendments in the existing laws.

Ordinance No. I. of 1897 gives power to the head of the Government to raise, by the issue of bonds, any sum or sums not exceeding in the aggregate a total of £150,000, to be exclusively applied for works of drainage in the most thickly peopled districts of Malta and Gozo.

The authority thus granted to the head of the Government is subject to the condition that "no bonds shall be issued for any sum or sums before an estimate for each particular section of such drainage works shall have been sanctioned by the Council of Government."

Every bond is to be for a sum not exceeding £1,000, and not less than £10, and to bear interest at the rate of 2½ per cent.; it is to be transferable by delivery, and liable to be paid off at 101 per cent. of the nominal value at any time after five years from the date thereof at the pleasure of the Government, provided that no less than 6 months' notice be given by an advertisement in the Government Gazette of the intention of the Government to pay off such bond or part thereof.

An amendment was proposed to the Government draft by an elected member, and passed by the Council, to the effect that steps are to be taken by the head of the Government with a view to this loan being placed on the list of securities quoted on the London Stock Exchange.

Ordinance No. II. empowers the head of the Government to make plans for regulating the alignment of buildings in any inhabited place in which the defective arrangements of building is to be remedied, and for regulating the extension of building area.

The necessity of this measure has long been evident, in view of the fact that buildings in inhabited places were rapidly being set up without discrimination. The police laws contained provisions to the effect that houses be built in accordance with the requirements of sanitation; but builders of houses could not be compelled, previously to the enactment of this Ordinance, to observe, in the reconstruction of old buildings or in the erection of new buildings, such lines as might ensure healthiness of groups of buildings and the systematic arrangement of communications.

Ordinance No. III. "To amend Ordinance No. XII. of 1889, intituled 'For the better control and management of the University and other Educational Establishments,'" when first introduced, was simply intended to enable the Senate of the University to give execution to its intermediate decisions without the previous sanction of the Governor.

The provision which the Ordinance contained to that effect was rejected. Meanwhile the Government was compelled to enquire into the state of the Education Department. With this object in view, a Select Committee of the Council was appointed to enquire into and report upon the organization of the University and of the Elementary Schools, and on any reform that might be considered necessary in the then existing law which governed that department. The Committee to whom the Draft Ordinance in question was referred having unanimously recommended that the Senate of the University should be abolished, steps were taken in the Council to give effect to that recommendation, with the result of the passing of the four articles which form part of the present Ordinance, by which Ordinance No. XII. of 1889 was repealed.

The first of these articles provides that the second chapter of the Statute of the University referring to the constitution and powers of the Senate of the University is repealed, and that the Lyceum and the University of Malta shall be governed by that Statute.

By the second article the powers that the Senate had in matters over which the Director of Education had no authority were transferred to the Governor.

Article 3 and Article 4 were inserted in order to vest in the Council of Government the exclusive power of preventing any alteration of the Statute of the University in which the majority of the Council did not concur.

Ordinance No. IV. is intituled "To amend some provisions of the Criminal Laws relating to Bail."

By this measure the provision of the Criminal Laws, according to which persons under arrest, accused of crimes and contraventions, may obtain their temporary release on sufficient bail to

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appear at all the proceedings of the cause, at any time and place they may be directed to attend, may now be extended to any case in which the requirements of the public order do not make it absolutely unadvisable that such provisional release should be granted.

The previous law, according to which provisional release could be granted, except in the case of offences punishable with detention or with imprisonment or with hard labour for less than one year, deprived the great majority of arrested persons of the benefit of bail.

The term of imprisonment to which the judge could, in accordance with the verdict of the jury, condemn the prisoner had often been exceeded by the time during which the latter had been kept in arrest awaiting trial.

Ordinance No. VI. regulates the duty on oil, which is now established at (*a*) sixpence per caffiso (4½ imperial gallons) on oil of every description, with the exception of linseed oil, of other oils used as medicine, and of any oils which, being unfit for food, are intended for industrial purposes; and (*b*) at one shilling per caffiso on cotton seed oil, or any oil containing any mixture of cotton seed oil.

This measure originated in a report made by the Chamber of Commerce, to the effect that cotton seed oil was being mixed with olive oil and sold as olive oil. The Collector of Customs supported the report, and called attention to the loss that the revenue was suffering by such mixture in connection with the duty on olive oil.

With a view of preventing importers of cotton seed oil from deceiving the public and defrauding the Treasury, a duty of one shilling per caffiso has been imposed on cotton seed oil, or any oil containing any mixture of cotton seed oil, which duty, as compared with the duty of sixpence per caffiso on olive oil, was considered sufficient to check fraud.

Ordinance No. VII. was introduced with the view (*a*) of consolidating in one Act all the laws concerning prisons; (*b*) of giving power to the head of the Government to appropriate adequate places in the country districts of Malta for the detention of prisoners accused of crimes, pending the enquiry into the charge by the Court of Judicial Police sitting in those districts; and (*c*) of appropriating adequate places for the detention of prisoners in addition to, or in substitution for, the prisons in the Palace of the Court of Justice in Malta and the prison of the "Gran Castello" in Gozo.

The necessity that the Government should have the power mentioned at (*b*) arose in consequence of the promulgation of Ordinance No. III. of 1896, abolishing the office of Syndics, by

which power was given to the Court of Judicial Police for the Island of Malta to exercise its jurisdiction in the country districts as a Court of Criminal Instruction in certain cases. As in such cases the accused has sometimes to be detained in prison, it became necessary that the law should give power to the Governor to establish places of detention where prisoners might be conveniently confined during the preliminary proceedings.

The expediency of giving to the Governor the power mentioned at (*c*) was suggested by the consideration that many unforeseen circumstances might make it necessary to transfer the prisoners from the places in which they have to be confined in the prison attached to the Courts, or in Gozo, to other places.

Ordinance No. XV. amends Ordinance No. II. of 1896, intituled "To impose a duty on imported meat, and to make provisions respecting the importation thereof."

The principal amendment affects the measures respecting the importation of fresh or frozen meat. According to present law "no fresh or frozen meat will be allowed to be imported into these islands, unless a certificate be produced by the importer, signed by the Government Inspector of the place of exportation stating that the meat has been inspected by him and found to be free from any disease, or unless, where there be no such Inspector at the place of exportation, a certificate be produced by the importer stating that no cattle disease of any sort was known to exist in the district where the animal was slaughtered at the time of slaughtering, and that the animals were inspected by a qualified veterinary surgeon and were found in good health. Any of the certificates mentioned in the preceding paragraph shall be signed by the British Consular Authority, and, where there be no such an authority, by the proper Government Officer or Municipal Authority of the district in which the Inspector resides, or in which the animal was slaughtered."

No fresh meat shall be allowed to be landed and no piece of frozen meat shall be allowed to be stored in the frozen meat stores before it is stamped by Custom House officials.

The refund of duty payable by this Government to the Imperial Government will be calculated on the amount of duty paid on such quantity of meat which, from a declaration by the Military and Naval Authorities and the books kept by them, shall appear to have been disposed of by the Imperial Government and actually issued as rations.

Civil Establishments.

His Excellency Sir Arthur James Lyon Fremantle, G.C.M.G., C.B., left Malta on leave on the 31st July, and Major-General

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the Lord Congleton, C.B., administered the Government as Deputy Governor from that date to the 10th September, when His Excellency returned and resumed the Government.

The Honourable F. Vella, C.M.G., Collector of Customs, acted as Chief Secretary to Government during my absence on leave from the 6th June to the 10th October, the duties of his office having been performed by the Deputy Collector.

Mr. Lorenzo Gatt, C.E., was appointed Superintendent of Public Works in the room of Mr. Paolo Trapani, pensioned; and Mr. Napoleone Tagliaferro, Assistant Director of Education, appointed Director of Education in lieu of Dr. A. A. Caruana, pensioned.

SAVINGS BANKS.

The number of depositors in Malta and Gozo at the end of the year was 6,614, against 6,402 for 1896, the amount to their credit £514,878 18*s.* 9½*d.*, of which £113,963 16*s.* 7*d.* had been deposited during the year.

The invested funds amounted to £491,227 12*s.* 2*d.*, and the interest derived therefrom to £13,287 18*s.* 6*d.*, which left a net profit of £4,913 10*s.* on the year's transactions.

These banks receive deposits from one shilling to any amount, but interest at the rate of 2 per cent. per annum is only allowed on deposits of 5*s.* and on every additional sum of 5*s.* up to £100. Sums of money deposited in the name of any one person exceeding £100 are considered as placed in the banks for safe custody and do not bear interest.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

The total imports in 1897 amounted to £10,895,639, against £10,472,139 in 1896, showing a decrease of £423,492. Of the above imports, £150,484 came from the United Kingdom, £9,087 from British Colonies, and £10,736,068 from foreign countries.

The following table shows a comparison between the values of the imports in 1896 and 1897, exclusive of articles not subject to duty, from the United Kingdom, British Colonies, H.M.'s ships, and foreign countries, respectively :—

—	United Kingdom.		British Possessions.		H.M.'s Ships.		Foreign Countries.		Total.	
	1896.	1897.	1896.	1897.	1896.	1897.	1896.	1897.	1896.	1897.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Beer	71,769	75,024	—	—	96	51	451	803	72,316	75,878
Cattle :—										
Beef	12,565	7,333	38,225	8,125	13	—	216,577	88,529	267,380	103,987
Horses	288	1,224	22	—	—	—	4,592	5,253	4,902	6,477
Mules	—	112	—	—	—	—	520	1,152	520	1,264
Grain :—										
Wheat	1,265	1,768	91,468	83,700	—	—	7,620,205	7,008,813	7,712,938	7,094,281
Indian Corn	4	—	—	—	—	—	325,997	624,714	326,001	624,714
Barley	17	4	—	—	—	—	1,118,499	1,619,811	1,118,516	1,619,815
Sagqina	—	—	—	—	—	—	9,209	9,278	9,209	9,278
Inferior	—	11	—	—	—	—	585,704	771,287	585,704	771,298
Damaged	1	4	—	—	—	—	31	58	32	62
Manufactured ...	25,588	34,694	—	—	31	215	25,634	42,962	51,253	77,871
Do. damaged ...	112	124	—	—	112	—	1	81	225	205
Oil	3,710	5,223	—	—	—	1	37,547	47,340	41,257	52,564
Potatoes...	19,838	16,068	—	—	1	4	9,029	13,421	28,868	29,493
Pulse	935	412	—	566	9	4	47,481	191,090	48,425	192,072
Seeds	—	—	—	—	—	—	27,596	36,273	27,596	36,273
Spirits	5,823	6,496	1	—	29	24	29,535	43,555	35,388	50,075
Vinegar	112	158	—	—	—	—	57	98	169	256
Wine	1,602	1,818	—	38	123	59	139,715	147,861	141,440	149,776
Total ...£	143,629	150,473	129,716	92,429	414	358	10,198,380	10,652,379	10,472,139	10,895,639

Of the above total imports the sum of £905,006 represents the value of cargoes actually landed at this port in 1897, against £885,315 in 1896, and £9,990,633, against £9,586,824 in 1896, is the value of cargoes which proceeded in the same vessels.

Again, the value of exports from portions of the articles which were actually landed amounted to £80,567, so that the sum of £824,439 represents the value of the goods imported for local consumption in 1897, against £842,039 in the previous year.

An inspection of the Customs returns shows an increase in the imports from the United Kingdom for home consumption in the following articles :—

Beer, 91,451 barrels (1 barrel = 9½ imperial gallons) at 15*s.* 6*d.*, against 87,495 barrels at 16*s.* 6*d.* in 1896 ;

Horses, 51 (at £24), against 12 (at £24) ;

Wheat, 641 salme (1 salma = 1 imperial quarter) at 35*s.* per salma, against 15 salme at 25*s.* ;

Oil (cotton seed), 4,595 caffisi (1 caffiso = 4½ imperial gallons) at 9*s.*, against 14 caffisi at 13*s.* ;

Spirits 7,520 barrels (at 15*s.*), against 7,445 (at 14*s.*) ;

There was on the other hand a falling off in the following articles :—

Manufactured wheat fell from 25,899 cantars (1 cantar = 175 lbs.) at 17*s.* 6*d.* to 22,263 cantars at 25*s.* ;

Potatoes fell from 46,985 cantars (at 7*s.*) to 31,992 cantars (at 8*s.*) ;

Wine (superior) fell from 1,199 barrels to 1,105 barrels.

EXPORTS.

There being no export duty in Malta, the following figures refer only to articles subject to import duty which have been exported in the same vessels or from bond or were transhipped.

The total exports in 1897 amounted in value to £10,088,760, of which £80,567 represent the value of goods actually brought into the island and re-exported, and £10,008,193 the value of goods re-exported in the same bottoms.

The following return shows the value of the exports to the United Kingdom and other destinations respectively, in 1896 and 1897 :—

——	1896.	1897.
	£	£
United Kingdom ...	2,359.890	1,784,834
British Colonies ...	2,899,046	1,891,114
H.M.'s Ships ...	3,181	9,103
Foreign Countries ...	6,624,032	6,403,709
Totals	11,886,149	10,088,760
Decrease in 1897 ...	—	1,797,389

The principal exports to the United Kingdom in 1897 were :—Wheat, valued at £1,381,129, against £2,074,682 in 1896; Indian corn, £56,653, against £72,987; barley, £201,227, against £128,933; inferior grain, £39,565, against £9,170; and pulse, £105,773, against £73,661 in 1896; all of which goods proceeded in the same vessels in which they were imported.

The same articles, together with beer, valued at £2,169; horses, £832; mules, £1,260; manufactured grain, £5,872; olive oil, £7,498; cotton seed oil, £4,478; potatoes, £2,009; spirits, £34,413, and wine, valued at £3,508, were the chief exports to foreign countries.

SHIPPING.

The total number and tonnage of British and foreign vessels entered and cleared for the last two years is shown below :—

Entered.

British or Foreign.	Steam or Sailing.	Number.		Tonnage entered.	
		1896.	1897.	1896.	1897.
				Tons.	Tons.
British	Steam ...	1,556	1,673	2,312,640	2,619,626
„	Sailing ...	109	116	10,856	11,667
Foreign... ...	Steam ...	984	1,024	891,161	943,520
„	Sailing ...	1,137	1,298	78,543	62,613
Total		3,786	4,111	3,293,200	3,637,426
Increase in 1897 ...		—	325	—	344,226

Cleared.

British or Foreign.	Steam or Sailing.	Number.		Tonnage cleared.	
		1896.	1897.	1896.	1897.
British	Steam ...	1,563	1,668	Tons. 2,311,942	Tons. 2,614,648
"	Sailing ...	97	117	9,663	12,031
Foreign... ...	Steam ...	990	1,020	895,328	917,449
"	Sailing ...	1,117	1,292	74,215	62,914
Total		3,767	4,097	3,291,148	3,607,042
Increase in 1897 ...		—	330	—	315,894

The movement of the trade in 1897 was as follows :—

Tonnage entered from		Steam.	Sailing.	Total.
United Kingdom		Tons. 1,055,739	Tons. 358	Tons. 1,056,097
British Colonies		22,206	240	22,446
China	Viâ the Suez Canal.	52,438	—	52,438
India		335,092	—	335,092
Java		6,595	—	6,595
Australia		34,158	—	34,158
Foreign Countries		2,056,918	73,682	2,130,600
Total		3,563,146	74,280	3,637,426

Tonnage Cleared.

Countries to which departed.	Steam.	Sailing.	Total.
	Tons	Tons.	Tons.
United Kingdom	811,854	—	811,854
British Colonies	185,049	811	185,860
Australia (Viâ the Suez Canal.)	61	—	61
China (Viâ the Suez Canal.)	50,284	—	50,284
India (Viâ the Suez Canal.)	376,549	—	376,549
Japan (Viâ the Suez Canal.)	12,469	—	12,469
Java (Viâ the Suez Canal.)	3,336	—	3,336
Manilla (Viâ the Suez Canal.)	2,165	—	2,165
Russia (Viâ the Suez Canal.)	2,970	—	2,970
Foreign Countries	2,087,360	74,134	2,161,494
Total	3,532,097	74,945	3,607,042

GAOLS AND PRISONERS.

The number of persons confined in the gaols during 1897 was 5,967, of whom 4,289 were men, 619 women, 1,046 boys, and 13 girls. Of these 6 were committed for debt, 236 for safe custody pending trial, or for want of bail, and 5,728 for purposes of penal imprisonment.

The number of persons committed to penal imprisonment, including hard labour, was as follows :—

21 for five years or more,
82 for one year or more, but less than five years,
560 for more than three months and less than one year,
5,078 for three months or less.

The daily average in the gaols was 268, against 261 in 1896.

The number of punishments inflicted was 248 against 286 in 1896, viz. :—

	No.
Solitary confinement on bread and water ...	143
Dark cell on bread and water	2
Reduction from class	16
Admonished	87
Total	248

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The total cost of the prisons (Corradino, Valletta, and Gozo Prison) amounted to £4,172 4*s.*, against £3,812 6*s.* 11*d.* in 1896.

	£
The estimated value of labour performed by male labour outside the prison (building, stone-cutting, reclaiming waste land and produce of prison lands), was	400
Inside—tailoring, shoemaking, carpentering, whitewashing, basket, mat and broom making, &c.	580
Sale of animals	10
Total	£990

The health of the prisoners was satisfactory, the daily average on sick list having been 3; 25 cases were treated in hospital; and only one death occurred, from purpora hæmorrhagica.

HOSPITALS AND ASYLUMS.

The total expenditure for the Charitable Institutions in Malta and Gozo during the financial year 1896-97 amounted to £41,616 19*s.* 4*d.*, against £39,781 15*s.* in 1895-96, showing an increase of £1,835 4*s.* 4*d.*

The following table gives the particulars relating to each institution:—

Hospitals.

Hospital.	In the Hospital on 1st January 1897.	Admitted During the Year.	Discharged as Cured.	Deaths.	Daily Average.
Central Hospital	157	2,444	2,170	272	169
Seamen's Hospital.	11	89	89	2	8
Santo Spirito Hospital.	62	434	387	41	70
Gozo Hospital...	35	386	336	60	30
Totals ...	265	3,353	2,982	375	277

Asylums.

Asylum.	Inmates Remaining on 31st December 1896.	Admitted During the Year 1897.	Discharged.	Deaths.	Daily Average.
Asylum for the Aged and Incurables, viz.:					
1. Aged and Infirm	702	158	27	145	659
2. Incurables ...	190	42	8	18	194
3. Lepers	18	11	3	8	18
Lunatic asylum ...	591	138	68	33	605
Orphan asylum ...	96	12	10	1	95
Totals	1,597	361	116	205	1,571

CRIMINAL STATISTICS.

The total number of offences reported to the Police or to the Magistrates in 1897 was 7,567, against 9,672 in 1896.

Of the offences reported, 974 were for offences against the person; 43 were for offences against the good order of families; 408 were for offences against property; 6,142 were for other offences.

The number of persons apprehended by the Police or summoned before the Magistrates was 11,940, of whom 10,911 were summarily convicted, 838 discharged for want of evidence or otherwise acquitted, and 191 were committed for trial.

Of the convictions in the Inferior Courts, 1,082 were for offences against the person; 14 were for offences against the good order of families; 434 were for offences against property; 9,381 were for other offences.

The convictions in the Superior Courts are classified as follows:—

61 for offences against the person; 18 for offences against the

MALTA. 1891.

good order of families; 33 for offences against property; and 8 for other offences.

The acquittals were are follows :—In the Inferior Courts, 838; in the Superior Courts, 71.

METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS.

The returns of the meteorological observations taken at St. Ignatius' College show as follows :—

(Lat. 35° 55′ N., Long. 14° 29′ E. Barometer readings reduced to 32° F. at sea level.)

Mean atmospheric pressure for the year 30·058 inches; mean temperature of the air 64·2°; mean degree of humidity 75; mean hourly velocity of the wind 10·5 miles; fall of rain 14·216 inches (against a mean of 19·701 of last 14 years); number of days on which rain fell 81. The minimum of rain fell in September, 0·050 inches; the maximum in December, 3·970 inches.

Hail fell on 5 days; there was an unprecedentedly severe hail-storm at 1.5 a.m. on the 23rd January. Hailstones of hard ice, some as big as a hen's egg, fell for several minutes, causing much damage to skylights and windows facing westwards.

The highest reading of maximum thermometer in the shade was 97·8° on the 14th September, in the sun it was 159·7° on the 15th July. The lowest temperature was 39·4°, on the 31st January.

I have, &c.,

G. STRICKLAND,
Chief Secretary to Government.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 270.

MALTA.

REPORT FOR 1898.

(For Report for 1897, *see* No. 243.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
September, 1899.

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COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other, reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained for a few pence from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
241	Trinidad and Tobago	1897
242	British Honduras	,,
243	Malta	,,
244	Fiji	,,
245	Hong Kong	,,
246	Leeward Islands	,,
247	Grenada...	,,
248	Gibraltar	,,
249	Gold Coast	,,
250	Mauritius and Rodrigues	,,
251	British Solomon Islands	1897–98
252	Seychelles	1897
253	Labuan	,,
254	Ceylon	,,
255	Basutoland	1897–98
256	Newfoundland	1896–97
257	Cocos-Keeling and Christmas Islands ...	1898
258	British New Guinea	1897–98
259	Bermuda	1898
260	Niger.—West African Frontier Force ...	1897–98
261	Jamaica	,,
262	Barbados	1898
263	Falkland Islands	,,
264	Gambia	,,
265	St. Helena	,,
266	Leeward Islands	,,
267	St. Lucia	,,
268	Fiji	,,
269	Turks and Caicos Islands	,,

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast...	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada	Emigration.
5	Bahamas	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific	Solomon Islands.
9	Dominica	Agriculture.
10	Virgin Islands	Condition during 1897.
11	Grenada	Agriculture in Carriacou.

No. 270.

MALTA.

MALTA, 1898.

(For Report for 1897, *see* No. 243.)

GOVERNOR SIR F. W. GRENFELL to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

The Palace, Valletta,
20th June 1899.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward, herewith, for your information, the Chief Secretary's Report on the Blue Book for the year 1898, drawn up in accordance with the instructions contained in your circular despatch of the 31st January last.

2. The printing of the Blue Book will soon be completed, and copies thereof will be transmitted to you at the earliest opportunity.

I have, &c.,
F. GRENFELL,
Governor.

3204—800—6/9[illegible] Wt 21935 D & S—5 (B) A 2

MALTA, 1898.

Chief Secretary's Office,
Valletta,
13th June 1899.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to submit the following Report of the Malta Blue Book for 1898 :—

GENERAL REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

Revenue.

The revenue collected in 1898 amounted to £332,488 18*s.* 1*d.*, being £2,769 18*s.* 1*d.* above the estimate, and £8,701 12*s.* 2½*d.* in excess of the revenue of the previous year.

The following table gives a comparison of the revenue for the last two years classified under each head :—

Heads of Revenue.	Amount Collected in 1897.	Amount Collected in 1898.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*
1. Customs - -	172,707 12 1	176,648 19 7	3,941 7 6	—
2. Harbour and Quarantine Dues.	8,522 10 3	8,723 16 6	201 6 3	—
3. Licences, Court Fines, &c.	5,646 11 8¾	5,549 3 3¼	—	97 8 5½
4. Fees and Reimbursements.	23,113 11 0¾	24,266 10 4	1,152 19 3¼	—
5. Post Office -	16,218 18 4	15,781 12 0	—	437 6 4
5A. Railway - -	6,817 19 9¾	7,108 3 3½	290 3 5¾	—
6. Water Service -	10,114 7 2	10,698 2 8	583 15 6	—
6A. Electric Lighting -	9,122 14 2	11,236 8 1	2,113 13 11	—
7. Rents, Rural - -	12,834 7 5¼	13,054 19 0½	220 11 7¼	—
8. Rents, Urban - -	27,257 12 3¼	27,507 14 2¾	250 1 11½	—
9. Rents on account of Pious Foundations.	3,923 5 2¾	3,933 2 6¼	9 17 3½	—
10. Interest - - -	27,507 16 4	27,980 6 6¾	472 10 2¾	—
Total -	323,787 5 10½	332,488 18 1	9,236 7 0	534 14 9½

For the purpose of a wider comparison I subjoin hereunder another table giving the revenue of the last five years preceding the year under review:—

Year.	Revenue.
	£ s. d.
1893	291,157 10 3½
1894	301,858 13 9¼
1895	305,440 14 3¾
1896	313,680 14 7
1897	323,787 5 10½
Average	307,184 19 9
1898	332,488 18 1
Above average in 1898 ...	25,303 18 4

It will be seen from the foregoing table that the increase of revenue over that of last year was chiefly contributed by (*a*) Customs, (*b*) Harbour and Quarantine Dues, (*c*) Fees and Reimbursements, (*d*) Railway, (*e*) Water Service, (*f*) Electric Lighting, (*g*) Rents of Rural and Urban Property, and (*h*) Interest; whilst the decrease was on (*a*) Licences and Court Fines, and (*b*) Post Office.

The largest increase to the revenue was earned by the recuperative powers of our Customs (*a*), and is mostly due to a larger importation during the year of flour, cattle, and potatoes, and also to the levying of duty on cotton-seed oil. The increased revenue on the above commodities more than makes up the diminution of receipts which has been brought about through a decreased importation of wines during the year.

The next appreciable increase calling for special mention is that of £1,152 9*s.* 3*d.* under head 4 "Fees and Reimbursements" (*c*). It was caused principally by larger returns from receipts of fees paid by patients for treatment in hospitals and asylums, recouped cost of subsistence of non-Maltese convicts in the Corradino Prison, fees collected in the Superior Courts, and Abattoir fees.

MALTA, 1898.

The Railway (*d*) and Water Service (*e*) undertakings have both yielded a somewhat larger revenue than in the year 1897. This may be taken as an evident sign that the general public, admitting the utility of both concerns, freely take advantage of the same. The amount collected under these two heads of revenue during the last five years is shown hereunder :—

Year.	Railway.	Water Dues and Meter Rent.
	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*
1894	5,603 17 0	5,850 13 9½
1895	5,963 2 0	6,701 3 10
1896	7,020 16 3	7,442 7 5
1897	6,817 16 3	7,573 4 10
1898	7,108 3 3½	8,200 12 8

The Electric Lighting Installation, which is another undertaking administered on municipal lines, gave an increased revenue over that of 1897 by £2,113 13*s.* 11*d.*, including £667 5*s.* 2*d.* for house installation. Although the principal contributor to this revenue is the Government, which pays the largest proportion of the receipts for illuminating the streets of the town and the three cities, the increase in the revenue obtained last year is not due to any further contribution for public street lighting, but to larger returns from War Department and private consumers, and to the laying of additional house installations.

The other increases under heads "Harbour and Quarantine Dues" (*b*), "Rents, Rural and Urban" (*g*), and "Interest" (*h*) do not call for any special observations.

On the other hand, the only diminution of revenue (£437 6*s.* 4*d.*) which deserves of being specially explained is that on the receipts of the Postal Department (*b*). This decrease resulted from the fact that the postal revenue of the previous year (1897) had been abnormally swelled by the payment in that year into the Post Office of Arrear International Transit rates which had been overdue since 1895. On other items the Postal Department has kept up the average proportion of its yearly receipts, and its

principal source of revenue, which is the sale of stamps, has shown a progressive annual increase as shown hereunder :—

Year.	Sale of Stamps.
	£ s. d.
1894	9,804 2 4½
1895	10,027 18 11½
1896	11,420 10 10
1897	11,658 9 1½
1898	12,088 9 5

Expenditure.

The authorized expenditure under the Civil List, votes of the Legislature or by authority of the head of the Government (awaiting the covering vote of the Council) amounted collectively in 1898 to the sum of £371,354 8*s.* 4*d.*, of which £23,170 3*s.* 3*d.* was chargeable to the General Reserve Fund.

Out of the above provisions the following was the actual expenditure incurred, viz. :—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Out of the Consolidated Revenue...	322,900	19	6½
Out of the General Reserve Fund...	16,181	19	8
Total expenditure in 1898 ...	£339,082	19	2½

This expenditure was allocated in the accounts as follows :—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
For personal emoluments	129,452	1	9
For other charges and works ...	209,630	17	5½
Total ...	£339,082	19	2½

There remained therefore, on the 31st December 1898, unexpended balances to an aggregate amount of £32,271 9*s.* 1½*d.*

The following comparative statement gives in detail the expenditure incurred under each head of service, exclusive of that under Immovable Property Account, which is dealt with hereafter :—

Heads of Expenditure.	Amount Expended in 1897.	Amount Expended in 1898.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1. Interest and Burthens	17,895 1 11	18,977 0 2	1,081 18 3	—
2. Pensions	16,886 17 6	16,713 15 5	—	173 2 1
3. The Governor and Legislature	5,255 11 10	5,677 5 11	421 14 1	—
4. Chief Secretary	4,214 17 2	4,224 8 11	9 11 9	—
5. Receiver General	3,082 17 8	3,034 0 9	—	48 16 11
6. Customs and Port Department	11,658 14 11	11,109 16 7	—	548 18 4
7. Audit Office	1,664 2 8	1,664 19 4	0 16 8	—
8. Printing Office	1,116 8 3	1,194 18 0	78 9 9	—
9. Railway Department	5,802 7 0	6,282 14 5	480 7 5	—
9A. Railway Special Expenditure	1,085 4 2	722 4 8	—	362 19 6
9B. Technical School...	—	535 1 0	535 1 0	—

10. Legal Department	19,028	2	9	19,344	4	8	316	1	11	—	
11. Police Department	38,730	13	3	39,956	9	10	1,228	16	7	—	
11A. Public Health Department	11,791	9	8	8,947	9	4	—			2,844	0 4
12. Prisons	4,394	6	9	4,289	0	1	—			105	6 8
13. Charitable Institutions	44,008	0	2	47,503	7	4	3,495	7	2	—	
14. Educational Department	21,968	14	3	22,573	10	2	604	15	11	—	
15. Post Office	13,883	15	0	16,931	2	2	3,047	7	2	—	
16. Ecclesiastical Expenditure	756	13	6	726	7	10	—			30	5 8
17. Military Expenditure	5,000	0	0	5,000	0	0	—			—	
18. Miscellaneous Services	12,205	6	6	13,632	11	2½	1,427	4	8½	—	
19. Superintendent Public Works Department	5,373	0	1	5,380	14	10	7	14	9	—	
19A. Waterworks and Electric Lighting Department	23,746	17	1	25,882	18	3½	2,136	1	2½	—	
20. Public Works Recurrent...	40,337	4	7½	40,875	8	6½	538	3	11	—	
21. Public Works and Waterworks Extraordinary	10,823	19	6½	1,718	10	1	—			9,105	9 5½
21A. Special Expenditure chargeable to General Reserve Fund...	3,963	1	7	16,181	19	8	12,218	18	1	—	
Total	324,673	7	10	339,082	19	2½	27,628	10	4	13,218	18 11½

MALTA, 1898.

The total expenditure of this Government for the last five years was as follows :—

Year.	Chargeable to the Revenue of the Island.	Chargeable to the General Reserve Fund.	Total.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1894	291,682 2 4	—	291,682 2 4
1895	301,550 16 9¼	—	301,550 16 9¼
1896	308,902 14 4¾	—	308,902 14 4¾
1897	320,710 6 3	3,963 1 7	324,673 7 10
1898	322,900 19 6½	16,181 19 8	339,082 19 2½

IMMOVABLE PROPERTY ACCOUNT FUND.

The provisions voted in 1898 for expenditure out of this fund amounted to £3,464 as an additional grant for the installation of electric lighting; the actual expenditure incurred out of the above provision and out of the balances carried forward from votes granted in previous years from this fund was as follows :—

	£ s. d.
Railway Works	4,372 16 4
Installation of Lighting by Electricity...	7,560 5 4½
Purchase of Palazzo Parisio (General Post Office)	854 15 1
New School at Cospicua (towards construction)	212 16 10
Court House, Police Station, &c., at Zeitun (completion)	9 1 6
Total	£13,009 15 1½

leaving unexpended balances standing to the credit of the different works defrayable out of this fund to the amount of £14,237 3*s.* 2¾*d.*

ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.

The assets and liabilities of the Government Treasury on the 31st December 1898 were as summarized hereunder :—

——	Liabilities.			Assets.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Investments in Imperial and Colonial Securities.	—			598,386	1	10
Investments in Monte di Pietà ...	—			2,062	11	3¼
Funds deposited with the Anglo-Maltese Bank.	—			14,513	6	3
Funds deposited with the London Westminster Bank.	—			10,123	10	8
Capital laid out for portion of furniture in Governor's Palaces.	—			1,548	9	1
Loans to the Monte di Pietà	—			56,000	0	0
Advances made by Treasury	—			7,189	13	7
Cash	—			6,233	12	11½
Court and other Deposits	61,973	5	7	—		
Dollar Investment Fund	21,937	10	0	—		
Savings Bank	523,340	15	8¾	—		
Pappaffy Emigration Fund	10,025	0	0	—		
Pappaffy Emigration Administrators...	1,615	5	7¼	—		
Deposit for works allocated to the Government Immovable Property under Ordinance V. of 1891.	14,237	3	2¾	—		
Reserve Funds	45,176	17	2¼	—		
Immovable Property Deposit Account	3,305	6	5¼	—		
	681,611	3	9¼	696,057	5	7¾
Total Liabilities				681,611	3	9¼
Surplus...				14,446	1	10½

CURRENCY.

British coins are the only legal tender in these Islands, and the limit up to which silver and bronze coins are received is raised to five pounds and one shilling respectively. Twenty-franc pieces and five-franc pieces, both French and Italian, are merely kept in deposit as articles of merchandize for exportation to the neighbouring centres of trade, such as Tunis, Tripoli, Sicily, and Syria, when a demand arises for them for the purchase of produce, or for the payment of bills payable in francs and lire.

The maximum rate of exchange with London during the year was:—On demand, 6*s*. per £100; at 3 days' sight, 5*s*. per £100; at 30 days' sight, 4*s*. per £100; at 60 days' sight, 2*s*. per £100; and 90 days' sight, at par.

The amount of money in circulation fluctuates according to the sums imported and exported and the requirements of the fleet. It is at present roughly estimated at £495,500, of which £400,000 in sovereigns, £15,000 in half sovereigns, and £80,000 in silver coins. The circulation of notes issued by two of the local banks is estimated at £20,000.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

In the absence of a statistical department, I am unable to give an official estimate of the exportation of local produce, or of the importation of goods which are not subject to duty.

Unfortunately, the transit trade, which formerly constituted one of the principal resources of the Island, and which has for years been on the decline, may now be considered as almost extinct, importation being practically limited to such goods as may be required for local consumption.

As regards hardware, earthenware, household goods, hosiery, and clothing materials, which are not subject to duty, enough is known to establish the fact that some foreign countries, especially Germany, compete favourably with the United Kingdom, not only because such foreign goods are generally cheaper in price, though sometimes of a quality inferior to that of British goods, but also in view of the activity displayed by the numerous foreign commission agents who scarcely ever return to their country without having secured a considerable number of orders.

As regards articles of food, such as wheat, meat, wine, &c., all of which are subject to duty, the exact value of the imports are given below, showing the increase or decrease on the imports of previous years; owing, however, to the peculiarities of our

market, very little beyond the fact that an annual increase in the consumption of those articles is due to a regular and steady increase in the population can be inferred from the comparison of the figures of one year with those of the previous years, inasmuch as any extraordinary larger or smaller importation and a consequent larger or smaller collection of revenue during the year is often due to causes which are quite independent of local conditions or of any action which the Government might properly take in the matter.

The following table shows the imports subject to duty for the five years, from 1893 to 1897 :—

Year.	Total.	United Kingdom.	British Colonies.	H.M.'s Ships.	Foreign Countries
	£	£	£	£	£
1893	13,732,030	189,808	58,689	564	13,482,969
1894	13,773,783	171,154	221,888	393	13,380,348
1895	13,099,978	174,350	324,916	236	12,600,476
1896	10,472,139	143,629	129,716	414	10,198,380
1897	10,895,639	150,473	92,429	358	10,652,379
Average for five years.	12,394,713	165,882	165,527	393	12,062,910
1898	10,025,131	203,517	519,608	485	9,301,521
Below the average...	2,369,582	—	—	—	2,761,389
Above the average...	—	37,635	354,081	92	—

From the above it will seen that whilst the total value of the imports has been reduced, the imports from the United Kingdom and from the British Colonies show an increase, and that the total loss in value is on the imports from foreign countries.

MALTA, 1898.

The following table shows in detail the value of the imports in Kingdom, British Colonies, H.M.'s ships, and foreign countries, the amount of duty collected on the articles landed for local

—	United Kingdom.		British Possessions.		H.M.'s Ships.	
	1897.	1898.	1897.	1898.	1897.	1898.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Beer	75,024	84,370	—	—	51	42
Beef & mutton (preserved)	7,333	224	—	—	—	9
do. (frozen)	—	—	8,125	17,730	—	—
Bullocks	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sheep	—	19	—	—	—	—
Horses	1,224	525	—	40	—	—
Mules	112	240	—	252	—	—
Wheat	1,768	1,959	*83,700	*486,816	—	—
Indian corn	—	20	—	—	—	—
Barley	4	93	—	*14,600	—	—
Saggina	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other inferior grain	11	9	—	—	—	—
Refuse grain	4	2	—	—	—	—
Manufactured grain	34,694	75,294	—	—	215	187
Refuse do.	124	29	—	—	—	—
Oil (olive)	14	10,400	—	—	1	69
Oil (cotton seed)	5,209	8,136	—	—	—	2
Potatoes	16,068	12,917	—	—	4	29
Pulse	412	1,117	566	135	4	6
Seeds	—	—	—	—	—	—
Spirits	6,496	5,909	—	—	24	21
Vinegar	158	125	—	—	—	—
Wine	1,818	2,129	38	35	59	120
Total	150,473	203,517	92,429	519,608	358	485
Increase in 1898	—	53,044	—	427,179	—	127
Decrease do.	—	—	—	—	—	—

* Proceeded in the

1898, exclusive of articles not subject to duty, from the United as compared with the figures of the preceding year, together with consumption during the same years :—

Foreign Countries.		Total.		Amount of Duty Collected.					
1897.	1898.	1897.	1898.	1897.			1898.		
£	£	£	£	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
803	556	75,878	84,968	13,784	9	11	14,977	5	6
—	3	7,333	236	27	0	0	36	0	0
—	—	8,125	17,730	283	14	7	2,955	1	7
87,455	96,995	87,455	96,995	10,224	4	10	11,446	17	4
1,074	1,137	1,074	1,156	187	4	5	218	10	0
5,253	3,976	6,477	4,541	552	0	0	360	0	0
1,152	1,538	1,264	2,030	109	0	0	154	0	0
246,465 *6,762,348	208,094 *5,528,025	248,283 *6,846,048	210,053 *6,014,841	56,056	10	1	50,168	6	9
180 *624,534	230 *576,275	180 *624,534	250 *576,275	65	11	2	83	5	11
5,290 *1,614,521	2,909 *1,883,756	5,294 *1,614,521	3,002 *1,898,356	314	16	3	458	19	9
9,278	13,784	9,278	13,784	1,425	16	9	1 483	16	1
38 *771,249	47 *655,495	49 *771,249	56 *655,495	8	9	4	11	1	6
58	717	62	719	9	3	9	95	14	1
42,962	28,571	77,871	104,052	14,635	5	3	22,282	5	6
81	120	205	149	31	12	0	23	16	9
42,427	29,731	42,442	40,200	832	6	9	521	5	6
4,913	10,677	10,122	18,815	760	3	0	2,340	4	0
13,421	13,475	29,493	26,421	2,483	12	7	2,853	2	3
56,809 *134,281	58,181	57,791 *134,281	59,439	4,385	14	4	4,361	8	0
36,273	33,441	36,273	33,441	2,701	7	10	2,481	18	2
43,555	17,981	50,075	28,911	25,299	3	9	25,816	18	1
98	623	256	748	61	15	3	161	15	1
147,861	135,184	149,776	137,468	38,518	10	3	33,357	7	9
10,652,379	9,301,521	10,895,639	10,025,131	172,707	12	1	176,648	19	7
—	—	—	—	—			3,941	7	6
—	1,350,858	—	870,508	—			—		

same bottom.

MALTA, 1898.

The above comparative statement shows an increase in the amount of duty collected on beer, meat, bullocks, sheep, mules, grain other than wheat, manufactured grain (including flour), cotton-seed oil, potatoes, seeds, spirits, and vinegar; and a decrease of duty on horses, wheat, olive oil, pulse, and wine.

Wheat and Flour.—The price of wheat having risen considerably in the course of last year, first on account of the large purchases effected in America, and subsequently on account of the bad crops in Russia, local merchants would not run the risk of importing large quantities at those prices. This brought about a falling off in the importation of wheat, which was partly met by the consumption of wheat in the Island and partly by the importation of flour, which, in view of the special circumstances above referred to, could be obtained at a price which was relatively cheaper. It thus happened that, in addition to the gradual yearly increase in the importation of flour due to the preference given by a considerable section of the community to a superior quality of bread which cannot be made out of flour produced by the mills in use in the Island, and also to the necessity of mixing imported with locally ground flour in order to whiten the bread, there has been an exceptional increase in the importation of flour during last year.

The increase in the Customs receipts was £7,647 0*s.* 3*d.*; as, however, the duty on one salm of wheat is 10*s.*, and that on flour produced from the same, as calculated for purposes of drawback in accordance with the law, is 12*s.* 7*d.*, the increase was equal to the flour which would have been produced by 12,154 salms of wheat, and is due to the ordinary and extraordinary causes above referred to.

Potatoes.—The importation of potatoes during the year was normal, the apparent increase being due to the falling off in the previous year in consequence of bad crops in the United Kingdom.

Oil.—No comparison can properly be made as regards receipts on oil between the last and the previous years, inasmuch as up to the 15th May 1897 cotton-seed oil did not pay duty, whilst it now pays double the duty levied on olive oil.

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Live sheep, increase	31	5	7
Frozen and preserved beef ...	1,515	10	6
Frozen mutton	1,214	16	6
Total increase ...	**£2,761**	**12**	**7**

This comparatively large increase is exclusively due to the contracts entered into by the Imperial Government for the supply of the meat in question, the consumption of fresh mutton and preserved meat by the population being normal, and that of frozen meat almost nil.

Spirits, Wine, and Beer.—The high price and the indifferent quality of common wine have had the effect of greatly reducing its consumption, and of increasing that of beer, and also to a certain extent the consumption of spirits, especially whisky. Moreover, the Customs authorities, with the assistance of the provisions of Ordinance No. X of 1889, have of late years been more successful in their endeavours to prevent smuggling, thus increasing the revenue derived from spirits, although the actual consumption may not have increased to the same extent.

Vinegar.—The increase on this item is only apparent, the same being due to a quantity of wine, bonded as such, having on examination been found sour and released as vinegar.

Bullocks.—The increase of £1,222 12*s.* 6*d.* under this item is due to the removal of the prohibition of the importation of cattle from Syria coinciding with low prices of live stock in Morocco and Tripoli.

In connection with this most important article of consumption, it appears desirable, in the interest of this community, that the local rearing of bullocks and the importation of small bullocks to be fattened in the Island be encouraged in every possible way as the best means, not only of securing a moderate supply of live stock in case of need and of reducing the price of meat by enabling importers to avail themselves of the opportunity when the price is cheap and when no quarantine restrictions exist in order to increase their stock, but also of furthering the interests of agriculture which stands in great need of assistance.

Exports.

The total exports in 1898, exclusive of local produce, amounted to £9,379,140, of which £51,597 represent the value of the goods actually landed in the Island and re-exported, and £9,327,543 the value of whole cargoes which merely touched at this port and proceeded in the same bottom.

MALTA, 1898.

The following table shows the destination of the exports for five years from 1893 to 1897:—

Year.	United Kingdom.	British Colonies.	H.M.'s Ships.	Foreign Countries.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£
1893...	1,876,402	4,193,122	8,152	6,197,465	12 275,141
1894...	2,737,744	3,978,977	6,373	6,363,653	13,086,747
1895...	2,859,870	3,317,533	6,817	7,047,593	13,231,813
1896...	2,359,890	2,899,046	3,181	6,624,032	11,886,149
1897...	1,784,834	1,891,114	9,103	6,403,709	10,088,760
Average for five years.	2,323,748	3,255,958	6,725	6,527,290	12,113,722
1898...	2,088,589	1.408,986	13,013	5,868,552	9,379,140
Below the average...	235,159	1,846,972	—	658,738	2,734,582
Above the average...	—	—	6,288	—	—

The principal exports to the United Kingdom in 1898 were:—Wheat, 3,591,174 quarters, valued at £1,494,570, against £1,381,129 in 1897; Indian corn, 728,395 qrs., value £75,565, against £56,653; barley, 2,249,197 qrs., value £441,313, against £201,227; inferior grain, 497,395 qrs., value £46,410, against £39,565; pulse, 34,600 qrs., value £30,030, against £105,773; all of which goods proceeded in the same vessels in which they were imported.

The same articles, together with beer, valued collectively at £9,047; manufactured grain, £7,563; olive oil, £9,822; cotton-seed oil, £863; potatoes, 1,921; spirits, £8,793; and wine, valued at £2,810, were the chief exports to British Colonies, H.M.'s ships, and foreign countries.

AGRICULTURE.

Agriculture in Malta and Gozo remains stationary, only varying in its results from year to year through accidental and abnormal causes, such as an excessive or deficient rainfall, absence or prevalence of destructive insect pests, &c.

The methods of cultivation employed are somewhat primitive, but the land as a rule is diligently tilled and cleaned by the hardworking and painstaking husbandmen. Vegetable produce and fruits being largely imported from Sicily and other neighbouring countries, the prices obtainable by local producers are lamentably low, whilst wages are high, ranging from 1*s.* 4*d.* to 2*s.* for farm labourers, and show a steady rise.

Acreage.

The surface of Malta, including Gozo and Comino, is 117·361 square miles, equal to 75,111 acres. The area estimated as under crop in 1898 was 44,165 acres, or nearly three-fifths of the whole surface. Of the remaining two-fifths only 4,024 acres were returned as uncultivated.

Holdings.

Some 10,000 holdings make up the cultivated area, the average extent of a holding being 4·4 acres, equal to one Maltese salma.

The following table, compiled from the census of 1891, shows the description, number, and extent of holdings :—

Description of Land.	Number of Holdings.	Total Acreage.	Per cent. to Cultivated Land.	Acreage Extent of Holding.
		Acres.		Acres.
Fields	7,981	37,236	84·32	4·66
Mixed fields	1,513	6,423	14·54	4·25
Fruit gardens	397	350	0·79	0·88
Market gardens ...	109	156	0·35	1·43

MALTA, 1898.

Condition of the Soil, Land Tenure, &c.

The soil is calcareous, deficient in "humus" and organic matter, and very shallow. Its fertility, however, as evidenced by an average yield of 22·56 bushels of wheat per acre, is not below par. This is accounted for by the mineral plant-food (phosphates and alkalies) contained in the soil, and heavy manuring.

The land is owned by Government, the Church, and private proprietors. Owners of land, as distinguished from farmers, are very few.

The system of land tenure is a "four years' rent," sometimes eight; and only waste open spaces are given on long lease to admit of being brought under cultivation.

Agricultural Exports.

Potatoes, onions, cumin seed, and oranges are the principal exports of local produce. A decline in the quantities exported is shown in the following table taken from the annual report of the President of the Chamber of Commerce for last year:—

Produce.	1897.	1896.	Total 15 years 1882–96.	Average 15 years.
Potatoes ...	C. 25,403	C. 67,791	C. 1,412,752	C. 94,183
Onions ...	„ 17,166	„ 43,087	„ 657,965	„ 43,864
Cumin seed	„ 2,823	„ 1,719	„ 36,220	„ 2,415
Oranges ...	Doz. 17,640	Doz. 6,980	Doz. 2,060,243	Doz. 137,350

Crops.

The corn crops, consisting of wheat, barley, and a mixture of both sown together (mischiato), covered an area of 13,189 acres, or 29·86 per cent. of the whole cultivated land. The average yield in bushels per acre was wheat, 22·56; mischiato, 25·02; and barley, 29·22.

The produce from wheat and mischiato (32,087 Imperial quarters) allow only 1·42 bushels out of the 7·21 bushels required per head and per annum for the civil population, which means a 75 days' supply only from home-raised corn.

Beans and pulse include the broad bean, which is mostly picked green, peas and the common vetch which are gathered green to supply the market, the chickpeas and chickling vetch, which furnish seed for animals, and the catterpillar, which is grown only as a forage.

The cultivation of the cotton, owing to the Egyptian and American competition, has dwindled to the quantity required for home consumption.

Under the denomination of gardens are included vegetables, root crop, and fruit.

Vegetables are grown on irrigation land all the year round, and in open fields during the rainy season. The rent of irrigation land is £3 and upwards per acre.

Potatoes and onions are largely grown for exportation. The area under potatoes is broadly estimated at 5,000 acres. Two crops, the spring and winter, are raised. The produce was, last year, fairly satisfactory, and sold at a high price of £6 per ton. Excessive rainfall, in November last, caused the nearly complete failure of the winter crop. Importation of inferior rate seed from Ireland, where the potato disease is prevalent, accounts for the decline of this crop.

Fruit trees generally are suffering from exhaustion of the soil, and many are made the host of insect pest and cryptogamic disease. The orange, lemon, and mandarin are attacked by scale insects and their fruit spoiled by the orange fly. The latter deposits its eggs likewise in the stone fruits and the prickly pear. Many means have been suggested to stamp it out, but considering the many hosts on which it thrives its eradication is somewhat difficult.

The pomegranate, fig, mulberry, carob, olive tree, and the vine are the other trees cultivated for their fruit.

Cumin is raised for exportation, and sesame for home consumption to dress bread with.

Most of the land returned as pasture is barren rock on which no crops can be raised, except the catterpillar and other pulse in the holes and crevices where some soil is collected.

The sulla (*hedysarum coronarium*) marks a distinct feature of the local agriculture. Nowhere can a better crop be seen. In 1895 the French Government of the Regency of Tunis made an enquiry as to the method of cultivating this forage in this Island. It is an essential crop in the rotation. It benefits the soil mechanically and chemically by its roots remaining in the ground and by its being a nitrogen-bearing crop. Outgoing tenants, in fact, receive compensation when leaving the land after the sulla crop.

MALTA, 1898.

Live Stock.

Notification of live stock is enforced by law for sanitary purposes, and the returns are very accurate.

Mules, farm cows, sheep, goats, and pigs are reared locally. The mules, farm cows, and goats especially are of a good breed. Unfortunately the once famous Maltese ass is becoming very rare, and unless means be adopted to protect it there is great apprehension that the breed may in future die out. Horses and most of the horned cattle for meat are imported.

The total number of horses, including mules and asses, was 8,862, or one horse for every 20 persons.

The horned cattle may be distinguished in farm animals and cattle kept in pens for the supply of meat. The first are fairly distributed all over the cultivated area, and their number bears a direct ratio to the acreage of casals. The cattle for the slaughter-house are more abundant in districts adjoining the fortified towns, the greatest number being returned from Hamrun, Misida, and Pietà.

The total number of sheep was 13,895. Nearly half the number was returned from Gozo, where Garbo alone furnished 1,106. The milk of sheep is not sold as such but is turned into cheese.

Goats, of which 15,165 are returned, supply the inhabitants with fresh milk. At Hamrun, Misida, and Pietà no less than 3,334 goats are kept, of which nearly 2,500, or one goat to every 10 inhabitants in Valletta, are brought into town for milking purposes.

The total number of pigs was 7,058, most of which had been reared locally.

Shipping.

The shipping returns show the following comparison between 1897 and 1898 :—

Year.	Steamers Entered.		Steamers Cleared.		Sailing Vessels Entered.		Sailing Vessels Cleared.		Totals.	
	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.
1897	2,697	3,563,146	2,688	3,532,097	1,414	74,280	1,409	74,945	8,208	7,244,468
1898	2,704	3,502,177	2,708	3,521,198	1,186	61,551	1,166	60,795	7,764	7,145,721
Increase in 1898 ...	7	—	20	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Decrease in 1898 ...	—	60,969	—	10,899	228	12,729	243	14,150	444	98,747

From the above it will be seen that whilst the totals show a decrease both in the number of vessels and in tonnage, the decrease in the number is wholly on sailing vessels, there being on the other hand a slight increase in the number of steamers entered and cleared in 1898.

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The decrease in the sailing vessels may be accounted for partly by the gradual abolition of this class of vessels, and partly by the less frequent arrivals of the vessels laden with wine from Sicily and Candia.

The increase in the number of steamers may partly be due to the fact that shipowners are gradually becoming convinced that the facilities afforded by our harbour are at least equal to those which they found by experience to exist in other rival ports.

The following table shows the nationality of the vessels entered and cleared in 1898 as compared with 1897 :—

Nationality.	1897.				1898.			
	Entered.		Cleared.		Entered.		Cleared.	
	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.
Sailing vessels :—								
British	1	153	1	153	—	—	—	—
Colonial (Malta)	115	11,514	116	11,878	125	11,730	110	9,714
Austrian	5	490	5	490	4	396	4	396
French	—	—	1	105	—	—	—	—

Greek	170	14,642	194	17,132	85	10,401	84	10,530
Dutch	1	45	1	45	—	—	—	—
Italian	1,027	38,644	1,003	36,716	905	33,541	899	34,693
Montenegrin	12	2,255	12	2,255	3	518	2	238
Spanish	—	—	—	—	3	276	2	184
Turkish	65	5,423	58	5,984	44	3,984	46	4,261
Tunisian	16	537	17	560	17	705	19	779
Norwegian	1	205	1	205	—	—	—	—
German	1	372	1	372	—	—	—	—
Total Sailing Vessels ...	1,414	74,280	1,410	75,895	1,186	61,551	1,166	60,795

Nationality.	1897.				1898.			
	Entered.		Cleared.		Entered.		Cleared.	
	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage	No.	Tonnage.
Steamers :—								
British	1,607	2,586,822	1,603	2,582,230	1,658	2,612,601	1,662	2,626,553
Colonial (Malta)	66	32,704	65	32,618	54	23,507	51	26,719
Austrian	479	307,986	478	273,863	483	321,873	484	321,634
Belgian	4	6,514	4	6,514	8	10,311	8	10,311
Danish	8	3,700	8	3,700	16	15,091	16	15,091
French	61	48,765	61	48,765	60	50,186	60	50,186
German	214	317,445	213	310,292	185	232,791	184	230,946
Greek	43	53,643	41	52,398	30	34,611	31	35,559
Dutch	25	16,795	26	19,795	21	14,818	21	14,808
Italian	123	115,914	122	129,267	114	103,803	114	103,813

Japanese	2	2,776	2	2,776	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Portuguese	—	—	—	—	1	1,990	3	4,884				
Norwegian	43	46,221	43	46,221	42	44,008	42	44,008				
Russian	2	807	2	807	3	2,018	3	2,018				
Spanish	6	7,070	6	7,070	11	15,271	11	15,370				
Swedish	7	10,391	7	10,391	14	17,486	14	17,486				
Turkish	6	3,732	6	3,732	3	973	3	973				
Roumanian	—	—	—	—	1	839	1	839				
American	1	1,858	1	1,858	—	—	—	—				
Total Steamers	2,697	3,563,146	2,688	3,532,097	2,704	3,502,177	2,708	3,521,198				

The following is a comparative statement of the total shipping inwards and outwards for the last five years :—

Year.	Entered.		Cleared.	
	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.
1894	4,126	3,597,992	4,111	3,592,141
1895	3,959	3,512,427	3,983	3,521,780
1896	3,786	3,293,200	3,767	3,291,148
1897	4,111	3,637,426	4,098	3,607,042
1898	3,890	3,563,728	3,874	3,581,993

LEGISLATION.

The Council of Government was in session when it met for the first time in 1898, on which occasion His Honour Sir Joseph Carbone, K.C.M.G., LL.D., Chief Justice, was sworn in as Vice-President of the Council ; on the 29th April the Council was adjourned *sine die*, and by proclamation of the 12th July it was dissolved and a general election ordained.

The new Council met on the 12th October, and continued its sittings up to the 21st December, when it was adjourned to the 4th January 1899.

New Letters Patent, dated the 16th December 1898, by which all ecclesiastical persons were rendered ineligible for a seat in the Council of Government, having been published in the Island on the 31st December 1898, the Council was on the same day dissolved.

The Council met 28 times between the above periods and passed 13 Ordinances of which the most important are Nos. I., II., IX., X., XI., and XII.

Ordinance No. I. of 1898 was passed to enable the head of the Government to make regulations respecting the grant of licences for the sale of non-intoxicants, for better securing the maintenance of order and public decorum, and for limiting the number of such licences according to circumstances. This law was rendered necessary by the fact that, with a view of enabling holders of licences for the sale of wines and spirits to evade the stringent Government regulations concerning the same, shops for the sale of non-intoxicants were opened close to licensed grog-shops from

which wines and spirits were freely passed into the former, in which women, sometimes of doubtful character, also served, whilst their presence is not permitted in grog-shops.

Ordinance No. II. establishes a tariff of commercial fees. This law originated in a petition by the Chamber of Commerce to the effect that commercial fees established by local usage should be recognized by a legislative enactment in order that merchants, brokers, &c. may not be put under the necessity of bringing before the court witnesses to prove the usage whenever their fees are disputed.

Ordinance No. IX. of 1898 amends Ordinance No. I. of 1875, intituled "To make some provisions for preventing the introduction and propagation of certain diseases in animals."

This law was passed to enable the Government to make regulations for preventing the supply of infected or contaminated milk.

The regulations, since published in the Government Gazette of the 23rd January 1899, provide for the registration of all persons carrying on the trade of cow-keepers, sheep or goat keepers, dairymen or purveyors of milk; for the inspection of cattle in dairies, cattle-pens, or other places; for securing lighting, ventilation, cleansing, drainage, and water supplies of dairies and cow-sheds in the occupation of persons following the trade of cow-keepers and dairymen; for securing the cleanliness of milk stores, milk shops, and vessels used for the preservation of milk for sale by such persons; and also prescribe the precautions to be taken for protecting milk against infection or contamination.

Ordinance No. X. amends the law concerning contagious diseases in conformity with modern ideas and with the English law on the subject.

The principal provisions of this enactment are to the effect (1) that the Chief Government Medical Officer may order the disinfection of any building, shed, tent, or ship in which there has been a person affected with a contagious disease as well as of any infected person or articles; (2) that the disinfection may be made either in the infected place or in any other place which the Government will establish for such purpose; (3) that infected articles, which cannot be sufficiently disinfected, may be destroyed; (4) that occupiers of houses, or any place in which, within the preceding six weeks, there has been a case of infectious disease, should be punished, if, without having disinfected the place, any such person should give it up to the landlord, or sublet it, or transfer it to others and conceal the fact that a case of infectious disease had occurred within the time above specified; (5) that persons shall be punished if they commit any of the acts contemplated in the Ordinance by which the infection might be communicated; and (6) that the head of the family to whom the

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patient belongs, or, in default the patient's next of kin residing in the same building, or attending the patient, or the master of the ship, shall be punished if they do not report any case in which the patient appears to be probably affected with an infectious disease unless they call the doctor without reasonable delay.

Ordinance No. XI. of 1898 is intituled "To make some provisions relating to public meetings and assemblies."

The object of this law is to prevent that public meetings be held without due notice thereof being given to the Superintendent of Police, who has the power, among others vested in him by the law, to indicate, if necessary, the place in which the meeting may be held in substitution for that pointed out in the notice above referred to; to make, with the authority of the Government, regulations to be observed on the occasion of any public meeting for the maintenance of order; to dissolve the meeting in certain cases, resorting to force, if, after an injunction to disperse, the meeting or assembly should not disperse within an hour from such intimation; and to make use of force, even if no intimation can be made owing to riot or opposition.

The promoters of meetings held in contravention of the law as well as those who offend against its provisions are liable to certain punishments.

Ordinance No. XII. of 1898 is "The Education Ordinance, 1898," which repeals Ordinance No. III. of 1897.

By this enactment the power of framing amendments of, or additions to, any article of the Statute of the University and Lyceum is transferred from the Council of Government to the head of the Government, who is also vested with power to abolish the office of Director of Education and to transfer, wholly or in part, the duties appertaining to the office so abolished to the Rector of the University, to the Director of the Elementary Schools, and to other existing offices, or to the persons occupying such offices.

EDUCATION.

Malta is well provided with educational institutions in which instruction in its three stages, higher, intermediate, and elementary is imparted.

Besides a university and a lyceum, there are two secondary schools, one in Malta for females and one in Gozo for males; a technical and manual school, 38 elementary day schools for boys, 39 for girls, five infant schools, and 31 night elementary schools.

In addition to the above public schools, there are 129 private schools and colleges, attended by upwards of 4,000 scholars.

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University.

Under the new Statute promulgated in 1898, the authorities of the University are the rector, a general council, and the special councils of the faculties.

The University consists of four faculties, viz., literature and science, medicine and surgery, law and theology.

The course of literature and science extends over three years, the courses of the other faculties extend over four years.

The University is empowered to confer the following degrees:—(I.) B.Lit., Bachelor of Literature; (II.) B.Sc., Bachelor of Science; (III.) D.Lit., Doctor of Literature: (IV.) D.Sc., Doctor of Science; (V.) M.D., Doctor of Medicine; (VI.) LL.D., Doctor of Laws; and (VII.) D.D., Doctor in Divinity.

A matriculation examination for admission to the university is held yearly; but the courses of the faculties commence every third year.

Lyceum.

The Lyceum is an institution in which intermediate instruction is imparted. Instruction is of two grades, the lower and the higher, each extending over three years. The lower is preparatory to the higher, which is divided into two courses, the classical and the modern.

In the classical course students are prepared to matriculate in the University; students in the modern course are prepared for the civil service, the army, the navy, a commercial career, mechanical engineering, civil engineering and architecture, and navigation.

The obligatory subjects of instruction common to both courses are English, Italian, history, geography, arithmetic, algebra, geometry, physics, writing, and religious doctrine. Latin is obligatory for students in the classical course, and French for those in the modern. Book-keeping, Arabic, phonography, and drawing are optional subjects. There is also a night drawing school for artizans.

The Schools of Mechanical Engineering and of Civil Engineering and Architecture, and of Navigation are attached to the Lyceum. In the School of Mechanical Engineering young men receive instruction to qualify for a certificate of competency to serve as first and second class engineers under the Merchant Shipping Act.

An entrance examination to the Lyceum is held once a year.

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Secondary Schools.

The Female Secondary School is attended by young ladies who receive instruction in English, Italian, French, arithmetic, geography, history, writing, needlework, drawing, music, and religious doctrine.

In the Boys' Secondary School in Gozo instruction is imparted in Latin, English, Italian, history and geography, arithmetic, algebra, geography, elements of physics, writing, and religious doctrine.

The course of studies extends over four years. An entrance examination in English and Italian and arithmetic is held every two years.

Technical and Manual School.

In the Technical and Manual School modelling in clay, plaster casting, stucco work, cabinet making, and carving in wood and stone are taught. Apprentices in this school attend also the Lyceum drawing class daily during their apprenticeship, which extends over five years.

The expenditure incurred in 1898 in respect to the above Educational Departments, including the Education Office, was as follows :—

	£	s.	d.
Education Office	924	4	5
University	3,554	1	11
Lyceum	2,587	18	1
Secondary Schools	629	14	9
Technical and Manual School...	197	15	10
Messengers' Establishment, Stationery, &c.	303	2	10
Total... ...	£8,196	17	10

Elementary Schools.

The elementary schools, formerly called primary schools, together with the Girls' Secondary School in Valletta and the Boys' Secondary School in Gozo, had formed a separate Department up to 1879, when, on the recommendation of the Royal

Commissioner, the late Sir Patrick Keenan, K.C.B., they were merged into the Education Department. But it having lately been established that the elementary schools, numerous as they had grown to be, were suffering from a lack of supervision, the Government found it advisable in 1898 to recognize elementary education as a distinct Department, under a separate responsible head, leaving, however, the other schools of secondary instruction under the control of the Rector of the University.

In taking that decisive step the Government was guided by independent expert opinion, and carried into effect the strong recommendations of the Select Committee which the Legislative Council had appointed in 1897 to inquire into and report upon the re-organization of the Education Department, and on any reforms that might be introduced for the better working of that Department.

The intricate question of education in Malta was thoroughly studied in all its bearings, and it was conclusively proved that the hitherto prevailing system of elementary instruction had failed to attain the object in view, especially in the attempt made to teach, simultaneously, English and Italian to Maltese pupils at a very tender age, both those languages being widely different from, and equally foreign to, their own native tongue.

The objectionable practice of calling upon the various teachers to help in conducting the annual examinations was done away with, it having been found that the schools were suffering considerably from the baneful effects of cramming, thereby failing in the real ends of a sound education. That unsatisfactory condition has now been remedied by salutary reforms introduced in the new regulations issued with a view to place elementary education on a sounder basis. Under these regulations Maltese only is now being taught in the inferior standards, whilst in the next two, only one language, either English or Italian, at the choice of the parents or guardians of the pupils, is to be allowed. It is satisfactory to note that in the classes where it has been considered advisable to introduce this salutary reform, 95 per cent. of the pupils attending have chosen English as their primary language of education, an evident proof that this system has met the real wants of the people.

The excellent practice of extending to teachers in the elementary schools the benefit of a regular course of training in England was revived in 1898 by sending two male and two female students to English Catholic training colleges; and it is to be hoped that this good work will, with the hearty and cordial support of the Council, be continued if possible on a larger scale, in order that the Government might be enabled to gradually fill up vacancies by accomplished teachers.

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The number of elementary schools in 1898 was as follows :—

	Malta.	Gozo.	Total.
Day Schools :—			
Boys	29	9	38
Girls	31	9	40
Infant	4	2	6
Mixed infants	14	—	14
Drawing (boys)	5	—	5
Drawing (girls)	4	—	4
Wood carving and Modelling ...	3	—	3
Sunday (secular instruction) ...	1	—	1
	91	20	111
Night Schools :—			
Elementary (boys)	25	5	30
Drawing (boys)	4	—	4
	29	5	34
Grand totals	120	25	145

The schools in 1898 were attended by 10,768 children, corresponding to 82·4 per cent. of the number on the roll on the 1st September 1897, which is the date of the beginning of the scholastic year in the elementary schools, and 62·1 per cent. of the number of boys attending the night schools.

The result of the annual examinations shows that the general average percentage of passes was 86·0, as against 91·7 in 1895–96 and 95·3 in 1896–97.

The number of children who left the schools during the year was 4,265, whilst 4,652 were admitted during the same period, leaving 7,021 still seeking admission, or 121 over the number for whom no accommodation could be provided in 1897.

The new school at Musta, capable of accommodating 800 children, which was opened in August last, has been found to answer all expectations, and it is hoped that the school in course of construction at Cospicua will likewise meet the long and greatly felt want in that populous centre. But these schools will not meet all the required school accommodation in the Island, and it is

therefore to be regretted that the efforts of the Government to build new suitable schools in other important villages have not so far been successful.

The question, however, of the supply of school accommodation is a matter of great importance, and calls for all the more attention of those concerned because it is only on a prompt and satisfactory solution thereof that the Government can adequately meet the ever increasing demand for admission in the elementary schools.

The total expenditure in 1898 for elementary instruction was £13,649 17*s.* 8*d.*, or £1 5*s.* 4*d.* for each pupil attending the school.

Of the above total £11,394 4*s.* 1*d.* were personal emoluments, and £2,255 13*s.* 7*d.* other charges, including rent, minor works, and other expenses for the maintenance of the schools, but exclusive of the sums which have been laid out in connection with the building of new schools, or with any extensive and extraordinary repairs in the existing ones.

The above total shows that the Government has spent in 1898 on elementary education over one twenty-fourth part of the total revenue of the island collected in the same year.

GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

Hospitals and Asylums.

The principal statistics relative to hospitals and asylums in 1898 are given below :—

Hospitals.

Institution.	In the Hospital on 1st January.	Admitted during the Year.	Daily Average.	Patients Discharged.	No. of Deaths.
Central Hospital	159	2,497	171	2,205	280
Seamen's Hospital	9	85	7	78	9
Santo Spirito Hospital ...	68	481	73	413	64
Manoel Hospital	7	150	8	132	24
Gozo Hospital	25	431	34	345	73
Totals ...	268	3,644	293	3,173	450

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Asylums.

Institution.	Inmates remaining on 31st December 1897.	Admitted during 1898.	Daily Average.	Discharged.	No. of Deaths.
Asylum for the Aged and Incurables, viz.:					
1. Aged and Infirm ...	688	144	626	18	136
2. Incurables	206	28	223	14	22
3. Lepers	18	12	22	4	3
Lunatic Asylum	628	142	639	73	44
Orphan Asylum	97	13	96	13	1
Ospizio-Gozo	134	36	145	2	21
Totals ...	1,771	375	1,751	124	227

The above institutions are under the administration and supervision of a Comptroller in Malta and of the Assistant Secretary to Government for Gozo in that Island, whose respective Departments are also in charge of a system of outdoor medical relief, afforded by twenty-two District Medical Officers in Malta and three in Gozo.

The Government, besides, distributes outdoor relief in alms to the poor who are not objects for admission into the charitable institutions, affords assistance to foundlings and other infants requiring nursing, and takes charge of the burials of paupers dying in the fortified towns, where inter-mural interments are not allowed, and of those dying from infectious diseases in all parts of Malta and Gozo, in which cases extra-mural burial is also prescribed.

The expenditure incurred in 1898 for the maintenance of the foregoing charitable institutions, and for carrying on the other services enumerated above, but exclusive of that incurred for recurrent or extraordinary works and repairs, amounted to £41,172 14*s.* 3*d.* in Malta and £3,296 1*s.* 10*d.* in Gozo. The institutions have afforded during the year maintenance and medical and surgical treatment to 5,432 persons in Malta and 626 in Gozo. 77,403 cases of ailment in Malta and 15,194 in Gozo were, besides, professionally attended to by the District Medical Officers at the patients' dwellings or at the Government dispensaries; and 4,796 vaccinations in Malta and 481 in Gozo were

performed by the same officers. 1,595 persons in Malta and 175 in Gozo received outdoor assistance in monthly rates varying between 2*s.* and 20*s.*, and as immediate relief, to such an extent as the particular circumstances of each case required; and 83 foundlings and other children were farmed out, or their parents were pecuniarily assisted in procuring wet nurses for them.

Among the new works effected in 1898 in connection with the charitable institutions, those which deserve special mention, in view of their importance, are the building of a mortuary and post-mortem examination room, and of an additional room in the sisters' quarters in the Central Hospital; the construction of an infirmary and of observation rooms in the male division of the Lunatic Asylum; two rooms for well-to-do patients in the Manoel Hospital for infectious diseases; and an Asylum for Lepers.

This latter building is still in course of construction, and some time I apprehend will have to elapse before it is brought to completion, unless funds for that object are more liberally and speedily provided. The urgent necessity of pushing on with the utmost alacrity the works in connection with this institution becomes clearly apparent when it is considered that there are 140 persons suffering from leprosy in both Islands; out of that number, only 27, *i.e.*, 17 males and 10 females, are kept voluntarily in separate wards at the poor house, though their isolation there cannot be quite absolute. The remaining number of lepers are scattered all over both Islands. An Ordinance was passed by the Council of Government in March 1893 providing for the segregation of persons suffering from that disease, but the law cannot be enforced before a suitable place is available for that class of patients.

The further enlargement of the Lunatic Asylum is another measure requiring serious and early attention. The building in its present state can hardly accommodate 400 patients, and yet the number of its inmates at the end of 1898 was 653. The inevitable consequence is that the classification of patients becomes a matter of great difficulty, and is but imperfectly carried out, and that the state of the institution, in so far as the comfort of its inmates and the observance of the rules of hygiene are concerned, leaves much to be desired.

Another want which is sorely felt in Malta is the building of a hospital in substitution to the existing one, which has become quite inadequate to the population of the Island, and which, on account of its position, does not admit of any further enlargement. The building now used for that purpose, moreover, was erected as far back as the year 1734, when principles of sanitation and the rules which are now observed in the construction of similar institutions were not rigorously observed; and, further, that building was never intended to be used as a hospital, but it

was erected to serve as an asylum for poor spinsters. It therefore lacks most of the accommodations and conveniences necessary in an institution of that nature. It has no ground for exercise and recreation for patients. Its ventilation is imperfect, and its position in a thickly inhabited centre is a serious evil, not only to the inmates of the hospital but to the population around. It is therefore highly advisable that the means may soon be found for meeting such an urgent public necessity.

GOVERNMENT SAVINGS BANK.

The number of depositors on the 31st December 1898 was 6,657, and the amount standing to their credit on the same day was £519,038 0*s.* 5¾*d.*, against £514,878 18*s.* 9¼*d.* in 1897.

The deposits made during the year under review were £99,113 14*s.* 8*d.* as compared with £113,963 16*s.* 7*d.* for the year 1897, while the withdrawals were £102,606 3*s.* 10½*d.* as compared with £105,088 9*s.* 7½*d.* for the previous year, leaving an excess of withdrawals over deposits of £3,492 9*s.* 2½*d.*

The expense of management and interest credited to depositors in 1898 amounted to £8,578 17*s.* 3*d.*, while the revenue collected was £13,044 14*s.* 1*d.*, thus showing a net profit of £4,465 16*s.* 10*d.* on the year's transaction.

JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

Police.

The strength of the internal branch of the Malta Police on the 31st December 1898 consisted of the following officers and men:—

One superintendent, 1 senior assistant superintendent, 5 assistant superintendents, 15 inspectors, 22 first-class sergeants, 55 sergeants, and 338 constables.

No important change has been effected in the distribution of the force, but the country districts have been gradually strengthened by drafting men of long service into the country, the recruits and younger constables being retained in Valletta for training and tuition in English.

An augmentation of 30 men was authorized in 1897, and recruits are being gradually enrolled, but it is found impossible to secure suitable English-speaking candidates. It became, therefore, necessary to select men otherwise eligible and to form a class for tuition in English, which has been done with fair success.

The small sum appropriated to the cost of instructing the police of both branches in "first aid to the injured" and "restoration of the apparently drowned" has been disallowed; it is feared, therefore, that this most useful portion of the police education must in future be omitted. The gymnastic course, however, continues, and constables are being gradually passed through a course of training with British battalions.

The number of offences reported to the police in 1898 was 6,864, against 7,567 in 1897. The number of persons brought before the Magistrates was 10,670, being 1,270 less than in the previous year. Of these, 9,857 were convicted, 184 committed for trial in the superior courts, and 629 acquitted.

The summary convictions were for the following offences:—

Offences against the person	925
Injuries to property	357
Offences against the good order of families ...	30
Other offences	8,545
Total ...	9,857

Of the 184 persons tried in Her Majesty's Criminal Court, 60 were acquitted and 124 convicted. The convictions were: 1 for murder, 61 for other offences against the person, 2 for robbery with violence, 31 other offences against property, 6 offences against the good order of families, and 23 for miscellaneous offences.

The above shows a steady decrease in crime; indeed both islands are singularly free from crime of a serious nature. Contraventions of the police and sanitary laws, though decreasing, are still numerous. The rare appearance of men of the fleet or garrison (some 20,000 in all) in court is very satisfactory, and speaks much for the good behaviour of the men, and something also for the training, forbearance, and firmness of the police, to whom an invaluable assistance is rendered by the military police.

The suppression of organized houses of ill-fame and the expulsion of the worst class of foreigners who live on this traffic will shortly be effected under the recently enacted laws.

The police laws which, in the absence of municipal authority, provide the only sanction for repressing annoyances arising from the matters below enumerated, are deficient and inadequate,

complicated by numerous ordinances and Government notices, and should be revised and adapted to the wants of modern civilization, namely:—Mendicity; solicitation or importuning, other than for immoral purposes; town noises; the practically unlimited traffic in drink; the collection and disposal of refuse; and traffic regulations, especially regarding vehicles plying for hire and their drivers.

Prisons.

In the year 1898, 5,236 persons were confined in the three prisons in Malta and Gozo, viz., 3,517 men, 715 women, 994 boys, and 10 girls. Of these, 9 were for debt, 188 for want of security, and 5,039 for penal punishment.

1,663 were committed for the first time,

1,079 for the second, and

1,113 had been convicted three times or more.

The daily average in the prisons was 292, against 268 in 1897.

The number of punishments inflicted was 283, namely:—

Solitary confinement on bread and water... ...	126
Dark cell on bread and water	8
Reduction from class	35
Admonished...	114

The cost of the prisons (Corradino common gaol, Valletta prison, and Gozo common gaol) amounted to £4,544 14*s.* 7*d.*, of which £437, expended in the maintenance of consular, naval, and military prisoners, were recouped, leaving a net expenditure of £4,107 14*s.* 7*d.*, against £4,172 4*s.* in 1897.

The prisoners' earnings during the year amounted to £870, viz.:

Value of labour performed—

	£
(*a*) *Outside* the prison (reclaiming waste land and produce of prison land)	280
(*b*) *Inside* the prison (mat and broom making, tailoring, joiners' work, &c.)	580
Sale of animals	10
Total ...	£870

The health of the prisoners during the year was very good; 7 were treated in the prison infirmary, and there were no deaths.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Population.

The civil population for 1898 is estimated at 180,328, an increase of 15,291 over the population according to the census for 1891, and of 2,583 over the population in 1897.

The birth-rate for the year is 38. The death-rate is 25·77, a considerable decrease on the preceding year, due to less mortality among infants.

Public Health.

The general state of the public health has been good, if we except an outbreak of small-pox at the beginning of the year, which was not entirely stamped out until the month of May. The deaths from zymotic diseases were 207, or 4·4 per cent. to total deaths.

The fortified towns are supplied with water under pressure and have a good system of drainage. They hold a population of 60,423 over an area of about 1½ square miles, with a death-rate of 22·54. By far the greater part of the remaining population is clustered in the suburban zone surrounding the fortified towns. This zone, though partly supplied with water under pressure, is undrained, and comprises a population of 44,266 over an area of about 14 square miles, and has a death-rate of 31·17. The population spread on the remaining portion of Malta and at Gozo, occupying the rural area, amounts to 75,639. The rural area is partly supplied with water, is undrained, has an extent of more than 75 square miles, and a death-rate of 25·83.

Sanitation.

The Public Health Department, by means of a staff of inspectors, sees to the abatement of nuisances, and carries out generally the administration of sanitary laws. The sanitary law is deficient in some respects, and it is to be hoped that draft legislation which has long been expecting passage through the Council of Government will eventually become law. During the year under review a useful measure for the regulation of dairies and the handling of milk has been passed into law, the principal provisions of which have been dealt with under "Legislation" in this report.

The total rainfall for the year was 29·178, and the average for the last 15 years 19·7 inches.

The following is the Meteorological Return for the year:—

(Lat. 35° 55′ N. Long. 14° 29′ E. Barometer reading reduced to 32° F. at sea level.)

Month.	Temperature.						Rainfall.		Winds.	
	Solar, maximum.	Minimum on grass.	Shade, maximum.	Shade, minimum.	Range (mean daily).	Mean.	Amount in inches.	Degree of humidity	General Direction.	Average Force.
	°	°	°	°	°	°	Inches.			
January	126·5	35·2	64·0	42·2	9·3	55·5	2·883	80	E.S.E.	0·63845
February ...	129·9	32·7	66·6	42·2	10·6	53·5	2·193	77	W.N.W.	1·03680
March	145·4	38·9	74·4	45·4	13·0	56·4	1·348	82	W.N.W.	0·43245
April	149·6	42·5	77·6	48·3	12·5	60·0	1·953	85	W.N.W.	0·80645
May	144·7	45·4	83·1	52·8	15·3	64·5	0·045	71	E.S.E.	0·60500
June	153·6	48·6	96·3	56·5	17·8	73·4	—	68	E.S.E.	0·36980
July	153·5	57·1	95·7	64·4	16·0	75·1	—	69	E.S.E. & W.N.W.	0·42320
August	151·5	61·0	92·3	67·0	12·6	77·5	—	75	S.S.E. & W.N.W.	0·26645
September ...	147·8	61·5	86·3	65·1	13·0	73·7	2·500	77	E.S.E.	0·00180
October	143·6	55·0	84·9	55·9	10·9	69·6	7·783	75	W.S.W. & W.N.W.	0·42320
November ...	137·7	51·0	76·2	54·5	10·9	64·9	2·329	82	E.S.E.	0·35280
December ...	120·8	—	66·4	41·4	9·8	55·9	8·144	79	W.N.W.	0·63845

POST OFFICE.

The transactions of the Post Office Department, when compared with those of the previous year, show an increase in the amount of correspondence exchanged.

The decrease in the revenue (as explained under head "Revenue," in this report) and the increase in the expenditure set forth in the following statement are merely to be attributed to the fact that in 1897 the sums received by the Malta Post Office on account of transit rates represented the amounts due for two years, and that the payments made to France under the same head, during the period under review, were in settlement of a term of three years.

The actual deficit in 1898 is, in consequence of the above payments, £1,349 10*s.* 2*d.*; but it is satisfactory to note that the sale of stamps during that year shows an increase of £430 0*s.* 3½*d.* over that of 1897.

Revenue.			Expenditure.		
1897.	1898.	Decrease.	1897.	1898.	Increase.
£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*
16,218 18 4	15,781 12 0	437 6 4	13,883 15 0	16,931 2 2	3,047 7 2

Particulars of the mail matter dealt with during the year are furnished in the following statement :—

Articles.	Received and Despatched.		Increase in 1898.
	1897.	1898.	
Letters	4,019,206	4,198,786	179,580
Cards	126,325	153,350	27,025
Printed Matter... ...	1,973,128	2,402,322	429,194
Parcels Post	50,028	51,187	1,159
Total	6,168,687	6,805,645	636,958

MALTA, 1898.

MILITARY FORCES AND EXPENDITURE.

Besides six companies of Royal Artillery and six battalions of Infantry, there are in Malta three local corps, viz. :—

The Royal Malta Artillery, consisting of seven companies, two of which are liable to serve in any part of the British Empire.

Two battalions of the Royal Malta Regiment of Militia, each composed of eight companies of 120 men ; and

A company of the Malta Militia Division Sub-Marine Miners Royal Engineers.

The first battalion of the Militia was raised on the 1st May 1889, and the second battalion on the 1st April 1897.

The amounts expended by the Imperial Government for the up-keep of the above local corps during the year ending 31st March 1899 are as under :—

	£	s.	d.
(*a*) The Royal Malta Artillery	22,761	3	1
Pensions for the same	5,502	10	4
(*b*) The Royal Malta Regiment of Militia ...	12,307	15	9
(*c*) The Malta Militia Division Sub-Marine Miners Royal Engineers ...	1,488	8	2
Total ...	£42,059	17	4

The Royal Malta Artillery receives the same pay as regular Infantry Regiments, and the Militia, which is organised under the British Volunteer System, receive pay for 72 drills, the rates for officers and men being equal to those of Infantry Regiments in the United Kingdom.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

Railway.

The Malta Railway, as administered by the Government on co-operative principles and worked by Government officials, has continued to increase in popularity and importance ; and, apart

from its financial results, which are decidedly satisfactory, it has contributed largely to promote social and economic interests in the Island.

It is a fact that since its opening in 1892 new and healthy dwellings have been erected and are continually being built in the central villages within easy reach of the line and at Notabile; a great number of families have established their residence out of the towns; cab fares have been reduced to half their former rates; thousands of workmen, living in distant villages, who on working days used formerly to sleep in town agglomerated in small and unhealthy rooms, are now daily conveyed to their destinations; and townsfolk find nowadays an easy and cheap resort to the open country on Sundays and other festival days.

Besides the improvements mentioned in former reports, the following have also been effected in the railway. At the Valletta Station a platform has been built and a new ramp arranged as an entrance and outlet for passengers; a new station was cut in the rock at Floriana; many of the sleepers were replaced by new oak ones, the line fastened with fangbolts, and all the stations furnished with additional accommodation.

Two stone sheds were built at the Hamrun Yard for the shelter of engines and carriages, and a technical school established in connection with the workshop for the training of apprentices.

An extension of the line from Notabile to Imtarfa is in a fair way of completion. Starting from Notabile Station, which is 160 feet below the inhabited centre, the extension runs for two-thirds of its length in a tunnel under Notabile and ends on the southern side of the Imtarfa Barracks after crossing the underlying valley on a stone bridge flanked by two embankments.

The tunnel is driven in clay and lined with limestone almost the whole length. In some parts of the tunnel, where the clay has no coherence, the circular shape has been adopted. This new extension will offer many advantages deriving from the fact that the position of the new station is far more suitable than the old one, both on account of its higher level and of its being nearer to the inhabited centres, whilst the terminus will be quite close to the Imtarfa Barracks. The cost of this extension will not be far short of £20,000. Interest on the sums expended in these works is being paid out of the railway revenue at the rate of $2\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. on £5,000 and of 3 per cent. on £15,000.

The net profit of the railway in 1898, after deducting interest on the capital invested, was £1,457 16*s.* 7*d.*, or £1,107 16*s.* 2*d.* if the amounts expended in the Imtarfa extension be taken into

MALTA, 1898.

consideration, as shown in column No. 3 of the following table, in which further details are given of the year's operation as compared with that of 1893, the year of starting.

—	No. 1. 1893.	No. 2. 1898.	No. 3. 1898.
1. Capital spent in the re-equipment of the line.	£ 14,653 s. 8 d. 8	£ 19,410 s. 3 d. 5	£ 32,110 s. 1 d. 11
2. Gross revenue	4,859 9 1	7,108 3 3½	—
3. Working expenses ...	3,862 18 1	5,147 12 7	—
4. Profit on working ...	996 11 0	1,960 10 8½	—
5. Per cent. profit to capital invested.	6·80 per cent.	10·10 per cent.	6·10 per cent.
6. Net profit after deducting interest on capital invested.	£ 593 s. 11 d. 9	£ 1,457 s. 16 d. 7	£ 1,107 s. 16 d. 2
7. Gross earning per train mile.	s. 1 d. 8·106	s. 1 d. 8·106	—
8. Working expenses per train mile.	1 3·983	1 2·920	—
9. Net profit per train mile.	0 4·123	0 5·686	—
10. Train mileage.	58·004	82·792	—
11. Coal consumed per mile run.	25·29 lbs.	24·80 lbs.	—
12. Number of passengers	626,912	1,063,013	—

Change in the Constitution of the Council of Government.

The close of the year witnessed a change in the constitution of the Council of Government by Her Majesty's Letters Patent of the 16th December, which makes the Council henceforth to consist, besides the Governor as President, a Vice-President, and six official members, of thirteen, instead of fourteen, elected members, ten of whom to be elected as heretofore by the general electors, and three, instead of four, by the special electors, all ecclesiastical persons having been rendered by the Letters Patent ineligible for a seat in the Council of Government and consequently in the Executive Council.

Changes in Offices.

Governor Sir Arthur Lyon Fremantle's administration came to a close on the 5th January last. He left the Island, on leave, on the 1st of that month, and his successor, Sir Francis Wallace Grenfell, G.C.B., G.C.M.G., assumed the Government on the 6th. In the interval the Government was administered by the Honourable Major-General Lord Congleton, C.B., as Deputy Governor, who had also been appointed Deputy Governor during His Excellency's temporary absence from the Island from 20th July to the 28th August 1898.

Sir Joseph Carbone, Chief Justice, was on the 17th January 1898 appointed Vice-President of the Council of Government, which post had remained vacant since the retirement of his predecessor in office, Sir Adrian Dingli, from the service on the 31st December 1894.

Professor Enrico Magro, M.D., was on the 3rd January 1898 appointed to act provisionally as Inspector of Primary Schools which were subsequently separated from the Education Department and made to constitute a separate Department.

During my absence on leave from the 12th June to the 28th September, the Honourable F. Vella, C.M.G., acted as Chief Secretary to Government, the duties of his office as Collector of Customs having been performed by the Deputy Collector.

Financial Position of the Island.

With regard to the present position of these Islands, I must premise that, there being, as regards finances, no statistical or other publications issued by any authority or institution, except those of the Government Treasury, the information given below, which has been collected from various sources, must be considered as representing only an approximate estimate based on conjectural data.

It may be useful to class the information into various heads as follows :—

(*a.*) Value of the landed property ;

(*b.*) Investment of money in securities (other than Government) ;

(*c.*) Money in deposit ;

(*d.*) Money in circulation ; and

(*e.*) Value of gold, silver, and precious stones.

(*a.*) *Value of landed property.*—The total real value of the landed property in these Islands has been estimated at £4,455,000, and the annual income obtained from the letting of the same would amount to £133,650.

MALTA, 1898.

(*b.*) *Investment of money in British and foreign stocks (exclusive of Government).*—The amount of money invested by local private capitalists in British and foreign securities is generally considered to be very large. It is held in fact that the aggregate amount of such investments can be safely estimated at £2,000,000.

(*c.*) *Money placed in deposit.*—The Government Savings Bank is the principal bank wherein money is deposited by petty traders and generally by all persons of thrift in these Islands. On the 31st December last the number of depositors was 6,657 and the amount standing to their credit was £519,038. Of this sum £103,556 are placed in the bank for safe custody and without earning any interest. The Government hold, besides, on deposit a sum of £21,937 belonging to 64 persons, which was left in the hands of the Government at 2 per cent. interest since the time of the conversion of the Sicilian dollars when demonetized by the Italian Government. There are also two local banks (Anglo-Maltese and Anglo-Egyptian) wherein moneys, as fixed deposits, are accepted at a rate of interest varying according to the period during which they are so deposited. Of these deposits no positive information is available, but I learn that they may be approximately estimated at say £20,000 between the two banks.

The amounts of money placed in deposit in this Island may, therefore, be recapitulated as follows :—

	£
In Government Savings Bank ...	519,038
In Dollar Conversion Fund ...	21,937
In the Anglo-Maltese and Anglo-Egyptian Banks	20,000
Total ...	£560,975

(*d.*) *Money in circulation.*—It is not possible to have reliable data on the amount of specie in circulation. In a place like this Island, which is a station for a large garrison and fleet, the money in circulation fluctuates according to the sums imported and exported especially for the requirements of Her Majesty's fleet. It may, however, be safely estimated that the specie in circulation amounts to about £500,000, besides the notes of the local banks which may be set down at, say, £20,000.

From the above, it may be held that the total amount of money capital at present belonging to the Islands would be—

	£
Money invested	2,000,000
„ in deposit	560,975
„ in circulation (including notes) ...	520,000
Total ...	£3,080,975

(*c.*) *Value of gold, silver, and precious stones.*—The value of the jewellery existing in these Islands is also to be taken into account. It is well known that it is the general custom of many families of all grades in this community to invest their savings in the purchase of jewellery, and this may be proved by the large number of gold and silver pawns existing always in the Monte di Pietà, by the yearly local manufacture of gold and silver wares, the value of which in 1898 amounted to upwards of £27,000, and the constant recurrent large importation of foreign jewellery. Taking the number of families, as given in the census of 1891, to be 37,467, and assuming that, say, one-half of these families possess jewellery to, say, an amount of £50 for each family, there would result a total value of jewellery in possession of the population represented by £936,650. To this may be added the value of stock of jewellery existing in shops, which is estimated at £100,000; but as only 50 per cent. of that stock is presumed to be the actual property of the jewellers, the amount to be added to the total value of the jewellery owned by the people of these Islands would be £50,000, giving a grand total of £986,650, which, spread on the population, gives a proportionate rate of £5·56 per head, and added to the £3·16 calculated as rate of money placed in deposit, gives a total of £8·72 of money and valuables owned by each head of the population, exclusive of immovable property.

I have, &c.,

G. STRICKLAND,

Chief Secretary to Government.

LONDON:
PRINTED FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE,
BY DARLING & SON, LTD., 1-3, GREAT ST. THOMAS APOSTLE, E.C.

1899.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 295.

MALTA.

REPORT FOR 1899.

(For Report for 1898, *see* No. 270.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
September 1900.

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COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other, reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained for a few pence from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
268	Fiji	1898
269	Turks and Caicos Islands	"
270	Malta	"
271	Gold Coast	"
272	Trinidad	"
273	Sierra Leone	"
274	Ceylon	"
275	British Solomon Islands	1898–99
276	Gibraltar	1898
277	Bahamas...	"
278	British Honduras	"
279	Mauritius and Rodrigues	"
280	Grenada	"
281	St. Vincent	"
282	Hong Kong	"
283	Jamaica	1898–99
284	Lagos	1898
285	Seychelles	"
286	Christmas and Cocos-Keeling Islands ...	1899
287	Straits Settlements	1898
288	Basutoland	1898–99
289	Niger Coast Protectorate	"
290	British Guiana	1897–98 & 1898–99
291	Falkland Islands	1899
292	British New Guinea	1898–99
293	Bermuda...	1899
294	Barbadoes	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada	Emigration.
5	Bahamas	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific	British Solomon Islands.
9	Dominica	Agriculture.
10	Virgin Islands	Condition during 1897.
11	Grenada	Agriculture in Carriacou.
12	Anguilla	Vital Statistics, 1898.
13	Cook Islands	Trade Report for 1899.

No. 295.

MALTA, 1899.

MALTA.

(For Report for 1898, *see* No. 270.)

GOVERNOR SIR F. W. GRENFELL to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

The Palace,
Valletta,
25th June, 1900.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith for your information the Chief Secretary's Report on the Malta Blue Book for the year 1899.

I have, &c.,
F. GRENFELL,
Governor.

Chief Secretary's Office,
Valletta,
25th June, 1900.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to submit the Annual Report on the Malta Blue Book for the year 1899.

1.—FINANCIAL.

GENERAL REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

Revenue.

The total Receipts in 1899 amounted to £354,265 15*s.* 2½*d.*, made up as follows:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Revenue from Customs and other ordinary sources	281,980	15	3½
Rent of Government Property ...	44,482	4	8
Interest on investments	27,802	15	2¾

6251—800—7/1900 Wt 21935 D & S—5

MALTA, 1899.

The following comparative statement shows that the Revenue for the past year exceeded that of the year 1898 by £21,776 17*s.* 1¼*d.*, due almost entirely to increased Customs receipts, which amounted to £197,421 5*s.* 9*d.*, being the largest yield ever recorded from that source.

Heads of Revenue.	Amount Collected in 1898.	Amount Collected in 1899.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*
1. Customs - -	176,648 19 7	197,421 5 9	20,772 6 2	—
2. Harbour Dues, &c.	8,723 16 6	8,110 8 4	—	613 8 2
3. Licences, &c. - -	5,549 8 3¼	5,377 0 5¼	—	172 2 10
3A. Stamp Duty- -	—	853 2 4	853 2 4	—
4. Fees and Reimbursements.	24,266 10 4	24,223 1 5¾	—	43 8 10¼
5. Post Office - -	15,781 12 0	14,597 7 7	—	1184 4 5
5A. Railway - -	7,108 3 3½	7,318 4 10	210 1 6½	—
6. Water Service -	10,698 2 8	11,219 15 11½	521 13 3½	—
6A. Electric Lighting -	11,236 8 1	12,860 8 7	1,624 0 6	—
7. Rents, Rural - -	13,054 19 0½	12,746 8 10¾	—	308 10 1¾
8. Rents, Urban - -	27,507 14 2¾	27,734 14 6¾	227 0 4	—
9. Rents on account of Pious Foundations.	3,933 2 6¼	4,001 1 2½	67 18 8¼	—
10. Interest - - -	27,980 6 6¾	27,802 15 2¾	—	177 11 4
Total - -	332,488 18 1	354,265 15 2¼	24,276 2 10¼	2,499 5 9

A new item of revenue was created last year by the Malta Revenue Order in Council, 1899, establishing a stamp duty on receipted bills and other documents. The enactment came in operation on the 14th August, 1899, and has produced revenue at the rate of about £2,500 a year.

The increase in the revenue shown in the above statement is due, with regard to Customs, to an abnormal quantity of spirits imported in anticipation of the raising of the duty from 2*s.* 6*d.* to 5*s.* per gallon under the Malta Revenue Order in Council, 1899, and to the after effects of the provisions of that enactment when it came into operation. There has also been an appreciable increase in the importation of flour to meet the considerable decrease in the importation of wheat. The total receipts above last year from duties on wines and spirits amounted to £13,441, and on flour £7,980. It is anticipated that the increased duty on

spirits will yield a further annual revenue of about £25,000 when the large stock now in the country and taken out of bond is consumed.

The railway, water service, and electric lighting, which are undertakings administered by the Government on municipal lines, have all given an increased revenue, tending to show that these concerns are being managed to the public advantage on a sound business footing. The following return of revenue collected in the last five years, shows the progress made by these enterprises under the management of the Government:—

Year.	Railway.	Water Dues and Meter Rent.	Electric Lighting.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1895	5,963 2 0	6,701 3 10	—
1896	7,020 16 3	7,442 7 5	—
1897	6,705 2 11¾	7,573 4 10	9,122 14 2
1898	7,108 3 3	8,200 12 8	11,236 8 1
1899	7,318 4 10	8,880 15 6½	12,860 8 7

Decrease in Revenue is shown chiefly under (*a*) Harbour and Quarantine dues, (*b*) Post Office, and (*c*) Rural Rents. With regard to the first item, the decrease is due to a falling-off in the number of arrivals in our harbour of steamships subject to tonnage dues. The postal receipts were reduced principally by the deferred payment of international transit rates amounting to £642 13*s.* 11*d.*, due by the United Kingdom and other countries, and by the diminished sale of postage stamps in consequence of the introduction from the 1st of April, 1899, of the penny postage, which resulted in a loss of £540 16*s.* 5½*d.* in nine months. It is, however, expected that by the increase of the correspondence passing through the Post Office the receipts from the sale of stamps will, in the near future, recover the loss. The cause of the decrease in the rents from rural tenements is attributable to the agricultural depression.

The following statement shows the Revenue for each year of the quinquennial period ending 31st December, 1899:—

	£ s. d.
Year 1895	305,440 14 3¾
„ 1896	313,680 14 7
„ 1897	323,787 5 10½
„ 1898	332,488 18 1
„ 1899	354,265 15 2¼

MALTA, 1899.

Expenditure.

The provisions available for expenditure by grants on the Civil List, by Order in Council, and under the various Appropriation Ordinances amounted collectively to the sum of £404,942 5*s* 1¾*d*. Out of such provisions the following expenditure was incurred, viz.:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
As chargeable to the Consolidated Revenue	341,182	3	10¾
As chargeable to General Reserve Fund	10,172	7	11
Total	351,354	11	9¾

leaving an unexpended balance at the end of the year of £53,587 13*s*. 4*d*.

The subjoined comparative table shows in detail the expenditure under each head of service, exclusive of a sum of £6,508 12*s*. 7¼*d*., incurred out of the Immovable Property Account, chiefly in railway works and in the erection of a new Government school at Cospicua:—

Heads of Expenditure.	Amount Expended in 1898.	Amount Expended in 1899.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1. Interest, &c.	18,977 0 2	18,928 15 10	—	48 4 4
2. Pensions	16,713 15 5	16,288 17 11	—	424 17 6
3. The Governor and Legislature	5,677 5 11	4,791 1 11	—	886 4 0
4. Chief Secretary	4,224 8 11	4,250 9 11	26 1 0	—
5. Receiver General	3,034 0 9	3,054 2 5¼	20 1 8¼	—
6. Customs Department	11,109 16 7	11,233 10 7	123 14 0	—
7. Audit Department	1,664 19 4	1,670 14 9	5 15 5	—
8. Printing Office	1,194 18 0	1,216 12 8	21 14 8	—
9. Railway Department	6,282 14 5	6,641 6 9	358 12 4	—
9A. Railway Special Expenditure	722 4 8	510 17 11	—	211 6 9
9B. Technical School...	535 1 0	674 14 7	139 13 7	—
10. Legal Departments	19,344 4 8	22,471 17 9	3,127 13 1	—
11. Police Department	39,959 9 10	40,714 16 1	755 6 3	—
11A. Public Health Department	8,947 9 4	9,005 15 7½	58 6 3½	—

Heads of Expenditure.	Amount Expended in 1898.	Amount Expended in 1899.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
12. Prisons	4,289 0 1	4,771 15 10	482 15 9	—
13. Charitable Institutions	47,503 7 4	48,914 2 4	1,410 15 0	—
14. Educational Department	22,573 10 2	8,078 2 8	—	14,495 7 6
14A. Elementary Schools Department	—	14,641 18 5	14,641 18 5	—
14B. Public Libraries	—	734 2 11	734 2 11	—
15. Post Office	16,931 2 2	13,743 18 4	—	3,187 3 10
16. Ecclesiastical Expenditure	726 7 10	854 0 7	127 12 9	—
17. Military Expenditure	5,000 0 0	5,000 0 0	—	—
18. Miscellaneous Services	13,632 11 2½	17,538 18 9	3,906 7 6½	—
19. Superintendent of Works Department	5,380 14 10	5,377 2 5	—	3 12 5
19A. Waterworks and Electric Lighting	25,882 18 3½	25,915 6 8	32 8 4½	—
20. Public Works Recurrent Expenditure	40,875 8 6½	39,539 7 4	—	1,336 1 2½
21. Public Works and Waterworks Extraordinary Expenditure	1,718 10 1	14,619 12 11	12,901 2 10	—
Totals	322,900 19 6½	341,182 3 10¾	38,874 1 10¾	20,592 17 6½

The total Expenditure for the last five years was as follows:—

Year.	Chargeable to Consolidated Revenue.	Chargeable to General Reserve Fund.	Totals.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1895	301,550 16 9¼	—	301,550 16 9¼
1896	308,902 14 4¾	—	308,902 14 4¾
1897	320,710 6 3	3,963 1 7	324,673 7 10
1898	322,900 19 6½	16,181 19 8	339,082 19 2½
1899	341,182 3 10¾	10,172 7 11	351,354 11 9¾

From the foregoing table it will be seen that the services on account of which an increased expenditure deserving special notice was incurred in 1899 were (*a*) The Railway and Technical School attached thereto; (*b*) the Legal Departments; (*c*) the Police Department; (*d*) the Prisons; (*e*) the Charitable Institutions; (*f*) the Education Department; (*g*) Miscellaneous Services; and (*h*) Public Works Extraordinary.

The circumstances which have chiefly brought about the increase are stated, briefly, hereunder:—

(*a*) Railway and Technical School: The rise in the price of coals and increased interest on sums expended for the extension of the line to the Imtarfa barracks. (*b*) Legal Departments: The augmentation of the salary of the judges and the general increase of the staff to meet the requirements enacted by the Malta (use of English language in legal proceedings) Order in Council, 1899. (*c*) Police: The supply of uniforms and great coats and periodical increments to salaries which fell due in 1899. (*d*) Prisons: The removal to Corradino Prison of prisoners detained in the Valletta Prison, which was considered to be unsuitable as a place of detention. (*e*) Charitable Institutions: Fitting up the hospital for lepers with all necessary furniture, clothing, bedding, utensils, &c., and a sum paid for drugs ordered in the previous year, but accounted for in 1899. (*f*) Education Department (including the elementary schools department): Necessary provision to meet office expenditure in connection with the elementary schools, introduction of new text books and syllabi of instruction in the said schools, appliances for the museum of natural history and hygienic laboratory, and subsidy to students abroad; and (*g*) Miscellaneous Services: Extraordinary expenditure for carrying out urgent sanitary measures to provide against a visitation of plague, and the refund of duty on frozen meat at a rate higher than that of the previous year.

MALTA, 1899.

ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.

The following is a statement of the assets and liabilities on the 31st December, 1899:—

	Liabilities.			Assets.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Investments in Imperial and Colonial Securities.	—			613,402	5	4
Investments in the Monte di Pieta ...	—			2,062	11	3½
Funds deposited with the Anglo-Maltese Bank.	—			7,321	6	1
Funds deposited with the London and Westminster Bank.	—			5,269	3	8
Capital laid out for portion of the furniture in Governor's Palaces.	—			1,600	0	0
Loans to the Monte di Pieta	—			55,500	0	0
Advances made by Treasury	—			11,707	15	8
Cash	—			6,463	9	5
Courts and other Deposits	67,109	17	8	—		
Dollar Investment Fund	21,937	10	0	—		
Savings Bank	527,143	6	6¾	—		
Pappaffy Emigration Fund	10,025	0	0	—		
Pappaffy Emigration Fund Administrators.	1,360	15	11¾	—		
Deposits for works allocated to the Government Immovable Property Account under Ordinance No. V. of 1891.	8,951	11	2½	—		
Reserve Funds	46,840	3	10¾	—		
Immovable Property Deposit Account	2,349	1	9	—		
	685,717	7	0¾	703,326	11	5¼
Total Liabilities				685,717	7	0¾
Surplus...				17,609	4	4½

CHANGES IN TAXATION.

The only changes in taxation during the year under review were the raising of the duty on the importation of spirits from 24*s.* to 47*s.* 6*d.* per Maltese barrel, and the establishment of a stamp duty on receipted bills and other documents, created by the Malta Revenue Order in Council, 1899, which came into operation on the 14th August, 1899.

CURRENCY.

The currency consists of British gold and silver; gold coins below tender weight being rejected. Payment by cheques is now adopted to a great extent by the commercial community.

The circulation of counterfeit silver coins caused alarm in the course of the year.

The rates of exchange on London did not fluctuate to an appreciable extent; the maximum rate per £100 having been 6*s.* on demand, 5*s.* being the normal rate; 5*s.* maximum on bankers' bills at three days' sight; 4*s.* at 30 days' date; 2*s.* at 60 days' date; and par at 90 days' date. The three months' paper was, however, much affected during the last months of the year on account of the high bank rate of discount in London.

The exchange on Italy ranged between 26·70 and 27·30, the average for the year being 27.

The twenty-franc pieces and five-franc pieces, both French and Italian, usually kept here in deposit as bullion for exportation to neighbouring ports, have, of late, greatly diminished, as in Tripoli and in Bengasi the demand for British sovereigns is improving.

The amount of gold and silver coins in circulation in the Island is estimated at £520,000, viz.:—

	£
Sovereigns	420,000
Half-sovereigns	15,000
Silver coins	85,000

The note circulation issued by two of the local banks is estimated at about £20,000.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

The general imports in 1899 amounted to £6,668,961, against £10,025,131 in 1898, showing a decrease of £3,356,170, and of £4,984,373 as compared with the average of the five years immediately preceding 1899.

MALTA, 1899.

Of the total imports £976,330 is the value of goods actually brought into the Island, and £5,692,631 of cargoes which merely touched at this port and were re-exported in the same vessels or transhipped.

The following tabular statement shows the value of imports of goods subject to duty for the five years, from 1894 to 1898, and their average compared with the imports in 1899:—

Year.	Total.	United Kingdom.	British Colonies.	H.M.'s Ships.	Foreign Countries.
	£	£	£	£	£
1894	13,773,783	171,154	221,888	393	13,380,348
1895	13,099,978	174,350	324,916	236	12,600,476
1896	10,472,139	143,629	129,716	414	10,198,380
1897	10,895,639	150,473	92,429	358	10,652,379
1898	10,025,131	203,517	519,608	485	9,301,521
Average for five years.	11,653,334	168,624	257,711	377	11,226,620
1899	6,668,961	297,830	408,685	2,255	5,960,191
Below the average...	4,984,373	—	—	—	5,266,429
Above the average...	—	129,206	150,974	1878	—

A perusal of the following table will show of what the articles in 1899 from the United Kingdom, the British Colonies, Her figures of the preceding year, together with the amount of duty same year:—

—	United Kingdom.		British Possessions.		H.M.'s Ships.	
	1898.	1899.	1898.	1899.	1898.	1899.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Beer	84,370	99,819	—	—	42	45
Beef (fresh, frozen & preserved).	224	1,152	17,780	19,888	9	20
Bullocks	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sheep	19	17	—	—	—	—
Horses	525	375	40	22	—	—
Mules	240	—	252	—	—	—
Wheat	1,959	6,707	*486,816	9,555 *378,732	—	—
Indian corn	20	43	—	—	—	—
Barley	93	4	*14,600	1	—	—
Saggina	—	—	—	537	—	—
Other inferior grain	9	18	—	—	—	2
Grain refuse	2	1	—	—	—	2
Manufactured grain	75,294	150,980	—	—	187	1,516
Refuse do.	29	2	—	—	—	842
Oil (olive)	10,400	168	—	—	69	79
Oil (cotton)	8,136	6,806	—	—	2	1
Potatoes	12,917	15,671	—	—	29	4
Pulse	1,117	2,148	135	—	6	24
Seeds	—	—	—	—	—	1
Spirits	5,909	10,782	—	—	21	34
Vinegar	125	171	—	—	—	1
Wine	2,129	3,466	35	—	120	184
Total	203,517	297,830	519,608	408,685	485	2,255
Increase in 1899	—	94,313	—	—	—	1,770
Decrease do.	—	—	—	110,923	—	—

* Proceeded in the

subject to duty consist, the value of each kind of article imported Majesty's ships, and foreign countries, as compared with the collected on the goods landed for local consumption during the

Foreign Countries.		Total.		Amount of Duty Collected.					
1898.	1899.	1898.	1899.	1898.			1899.		
£	£	£	£	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
556	1,385	84,968	100,749	14,977	5	6	17,217	12	4
3	21	17,966	21,031	2,991	1	7	3,004	14	2
96,995	113,356	96,995	113,356	11,446	17	4	10,966	18	4
1,137	1,294	1,156	1,311	218	10	0	195	17	6
3,976	3,556	4,541	3,958	360	0	0	355	0	0
1,538	1,092	2,030	1,092	154	0	0	98	0	0
208,094 } *5,528,025 }	118,163 } *3,165,709 }	210,053 } *6,014,841 }	134,425 } *3,544,441 }	50,168	6	9	38,983	19	0
230 } *576,275 }	322 } *561,501 }	250 } *576,275 }	365 } *561,501 }	83	5	11	147	16	2
2,900 } *1,883,756 }	4,718 } *972,282 }	3,002 } *1,898,856 }	4,723 } *972,282 }	458	19	9	474	9	6
13,784	12,795	13,784	13,382	1,483	16	1	1,566	17	8
47 } *655,495 }	52 } *610,863 }	56 } *655,495 }	72 } *610,863 }	11	1	6	13	6	11
717	308	719	311	95	14	1	41	1	11
28,571	36,070	104,052	188,566	22,282	5	6	41,360	8	4
120	2	149	346	23	16	9	49	15	1
29,731	42,964	40,200	43,211	521	5	6	564	3	9
10,677	14,030	18,815	20,837	2,340	4	0	2,336	7	6
13,475	14,246	26,421	29,921	2,853	2	3	3,138	14	7
58,181	60,876 } *3,544 }	59,439	{ 3,544 } { *63,048 }	4,361	8	0	4,137	8	11
33,441	37,216	33,441	37,217	2,481	18	2	2,281	3	0
17,981	20,156	23,911	30,972	25,816	18	1	34,872	13	4
623	92	748	264	161	15	1	68	16	10
135,184	163,578	137,468	167,228	33,357	7	9	35,596	0	11
9,301,521	5,960,191	10,025,131	6,668,961	176,648	19	7	197,421	5	9
—	—	—	—	—			20,772	6	2
—	3,341,330	—	3,356,170	—			—		

same vessel.

MALTA, 1899.

The above statement shows that, whilst there was a decrease of £3,356,170 in the total imports as compared with 1898, the loss was almost entirely in the imports from foreign countries, the importation from the United Kingdom having, meanwhile, increased by £94,313.

Increase in the amount of duty is shown on beer, beef, Indian corn, barley, manufactured grain, potatoes, spirits, and wine; and decrease of duty on bullocks, sheep, horses, mules, wheat, inferior grain, olive oil, cotton seed oil, pulse, and vinegar.

The following statement of the importation of "free goods" is given as the result of information obtained from local merchants, there being no official statistics of goods not subject to duty:—

Imported in 1899.

	Tons.
Coals from Cardiff	312,393
„ „ Newport	67,333
„ „ Liverpool	22,134
„ „ Newcastle	18,905
„ „ Hull	1,308
Total	422,073

Petroleum from Italy ... ... 1,098 Cases.
„ „ Batoum in bulk ... 1,625,655 Gallons.
Charcoal from Italy ... Salms 73,606 = 588,848 Bushels.
Firewood „ „ ... Pesate 29,667 = 139,064 cwts.
Pigs from Prevesa, &c., number 7,841.
Poultry from Turkey, Tunis, Tripoli, &c., number 35,656.
Tunny fish from Sicily number 3,106.

Exports.

The exports for 1899, exclusive of the produce of the Island, were valued at £5,449,501, of which £40,250 value of goods actually landed and re-exported, and £5,409,251 value of dutiable goods which merely touched at this port and proceeded in the same vessels.

The subjoined tabular return shows the value of the total exports for the last five years and their destination:—

Year.	Total.	United Kingdom.	British Colonies.	H.M.'s Ships.	Foreign Countries.
	£	£	£	£	£
1895...	13,231,813	2.859,870	3,317,533	6,817	7,047,593
1896...	11,886,149	2,359.890	2,899,046	3,181	6.624,032
1897...	10,088,760	1,784,834	1,891,114	9,103	6,403,709
1898...	9,379,140	2,088,589	1.408,986	13,013	5,868,552
1899...	5,449,501	919,202	617,563	9,924	3,902,812

The following return shows the value of the dutiable articles exported in 1899 as compared with the respective figures in the preceding year:—

Comparative Statement of the Exports for the Years 1898 and 1899.

Articles.	Value of Exports, 1898.	Value of Exports, 1899.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Beer	9,127	9,610	483	—
Bullocks	20	12	—	8
Beef and Mutton	—	44	44	—
Horses	1,040	804	—	236
Mules	990	110	—	880
Wheat	6,111,439	3,584,093	—	2,527,346
Indian Corn	619,137	558,147	—	60,990
Barley	1,911,823	927,529	—	984,294
Saggina	98	112	14	—
Inferior Grain	646,614	335,590	—	311,024
Manufactured Grain ...	7,604	9,241	1,637	—
Oil (olive)	9,860	1,338	—	8,522
Oil (cotton seed)	870	942	72	—
Potatoes	1,999	2,429	430	—
Pulse	46,701	5,341	—	41,360
Seeds	—	3,657	3,657	—
Spirits	8,821	6,942	—	1,879
Wine	2,994	3,557	563	—
Vinegar	3	3	—	—

The exports of local produce consist chiefly of potatoes, onions, cumin seed, oranges, orange peels, cotton goods and stone. As exports are not declared at the Custom House, the information given below is obtained from the several shipping agents at this port.

MALTA, 1899.

Return of agricultural and other articles of local produce exported in 1899:—

	Cwts.
Potatoes	27,623
(Besides 1,063 cwts. to Her Majesty's ships.)	
Tomatoes	23
Onions	5,495
Cumin seed	1,892
Vegetables	7,897
(Supplied to Her Majesty's ships and other vessels in the harbours.)	
Orange peel	29

Cotton goods of local manufacture 203 bales, 350 cwts. of stuffs and 715 cannes.

Goats, number, 259.

Stone, 33,710 slabs, weighing 1,164 tons, and 40 packages of stone work.

SHIPPING.

The shipping returns for 1899 show a falling-off both in the number of vessels and in the total tonnage, the figures being the lowest recorded in the last five years; the value of the goods imported for local consumption in 1899, however, exceeded that of the previous years. The decrease in the shipping appears to be only temporary, and attributable to accidental causes referred to hereunder:—

Comparative Statement of the Number and Tonnage of Sailing Vessels Entered and Cleared in 1899 *and* 1898.

Nationality.	1899				1898			
	Entered.		Cleared.		Entered.		Cleared.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
British...	2	534	2	534	—	—	—	—
Colonial (Malta)	106	10,010	119	12,119	125	11,730	110	9,714
Austrian	1	76	1	76	4	396	4	396
Greek	110	9,874	112	9,688	85	10,401	84	10,530
Italian	837	33,032	832	34,561	905	33,541	899	34,693
Spanish	15	1,153	16	1,246	3	276	2	184
Turkish	70	6,656	66	6,363	44	3,984	46	4,261
Tunisian	27	1,011	28	1,061	17	705	19	779
Montenegrin	—	—	—	—	3	518	2	238
Total	1,168	62,346	1,176	65,648	1,186	61,551	1,166	60,795

The decrease in the number and the increase in the tonnage of sailing vessels shown above may be accounted for by the arrivals of fewer, but larger, vessels with cargoes of wine from Sicily.

The Colonial vessels to the number of 106 are principally schooners owned by Maltese British subjects and employed in the carrying trade between Malta and the Sicilian and other neighbouring ports in the Mediterranean.

The Greek vessels entered, to the number of 110 in 1899 and 85 in 1898, are generally small vessels employed in the importation of wine and other commodities from Greece and other ports in the Archipelago.

Comparative Statement of the Number and Tonnage of Steamers Entered and Cleared during 1899 *and* 1898.

Nationality.	1899.				1898.			
	Entered.		Cleared.		Entered.		Cleared.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
British	1,359	2,272,821	1,372	2,264,724	1,658	2,612,601	1,662	2,626,553
Colonial	47	24,418	47	24,418	54	23,507	51	26,719
Austrian	443	278,109	441	277,595	483	321,873	484	321,634
Belgian	9	13,098	9	13,098	8	10,311	8	10,311
Danish...	9	10,785	9	10,785	16	15,091	16	15,091

French	...	...	...	...	57	46,619	57	46,619	60	50,186	60	50,186
German	...	...	...	...	242	339,813	242	339,813	185	232,791	184	230,946
Greek ...	...	...	...	...	15	14,351	15	14,351	30	34,611	31	35,559
Dutch ...	...	...	...	...	23	23,873	23	23,873	21	14,818	21	14,808
Italian ...	...	...	...	...	123	113,639	123	113,639	114	103,803	114	103,813
Portuguese	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	1	1,990	3	4,884
Norwegian	...	...	...	...	15	18,758	15	18,758	42	44,008	42	44,008
Russian	...	...	...	...	11	12,409	11	12,409	3	2,018	3	2,018
Spanish	...	...	...	...	22	43,630	22	43,630	11	15,271	11	15,370
Turkish	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	3	973	3	973
Roumanian	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	1	839	1	839
Swedish	...	...	...	...	16	21,776	17	22,315	14	17,486	14	17,486
Japanese	...	...	...	...	1	1,267	1	1,267	—	—	—	—
Total Steamers			...	...	2,392	3,235,366	2,404	3,227,294	2,704	3,502,177	2,708	3,521,198

MALTA, 1899.

The decrease in the number of British steamers is attributable to reduction in the trade with the Black Sea in consequence of bad crops of wheat in Russia, the importation from that country having fallen off from £5,813,894 in 1898, to £3,556,297 in 1899, whilst the value of goods imported from the United Kingdom rose from £203,517 in 1898, to £297,830 in 1899.

The screw steamer "Carola," belonging to the Adria Company, which, under contract with this Government, runs daily between Malta and Syracuse with the mails, is of Austrian nationality.

German steamers, entered to the number of 242 in 1899 and 185 in 1898, at this port generally belong to the German lines trading between Hamburg and the Levant.

Of the Italian steamers, two of the Florio and Rubattino Company's vessels call at this port once a week.

The subjoined return shows the total number of ships and the total tonnage during the last five years, 1895 to 1899:—

Comparative Statement of the Total Shipping Inwards and Outwards for the last Five Years.

Year.	Entered.		Cleared.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
1895	3,959	3,512,427	3,983	3,521,780
1896	3,786	3,293,200	3,767	3,291,148
1897	4,111	3,637,426	4,098	3,607,042
1898	3,890	3,563,728	3,874	3,581,993
1899	3,560	3,297,712	3,580	3,292,942

LEGISLATION.

There were two sessions of the Legislature during the year, and thirteen Ordinances received the Governor's assent, of which the most important are the following:—

Ordinance No. I.: "To make some provisions respecting the "landing and the residence of aliens in these Islands," the principal objects of which were to prevent aliens of bad character from coming to live in these Islands, and to subject to expulsion any alien who may be condemned in these Islands for any crime, or for leading an idle and vagrant life, or in case he knowingly lives, wholly or in part, on the earnings of prostitution, or solicits in the streets or other public place for the purpose of prostitution or for any other immoral purposes.

A provision of the Act makes the law, as regards aliens intending to reside in Malta, retrospective in the case of aliens who have not resided in Malta for a period of three years or more.

Ordinance No. III. authorizes the Head of the Government to establish industrial schools or Houses of Correction, the latter denomination being intended to correspond to that of reformatory schools as used in England.

The necessity of such institutions had long been felt, but the Government could not provide the funds required for their establishment. Lately, a private gentleman having made a donation to the Government of a site and of £1,000 towards the construction of the said school and house, to be under the management of the Salesian Fathers, the Council of Government voted a sum of £1,800 with which, in addition to the sum donated and the balance of the sum which had been collected to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee, the Government is constructing the first floor of a building which will contain both the Industrial School and the Reformatory, each institution to be quite separate and independent of the other.

Ordinance No. VI. amends the Criminal Laws as regards the disclosure of secrets constituting a breach of official trust or disclosure of confidential information. The provisions which were contained in those laws were very incomplete, as they did not provide for such disclosure of secrets as caused the passing of the Official Secrets Act, 1889, in England, and similar Acts in other countries.

The ordinance embodies the main provisions of the said Imperial Act, 1889, except such as should not form part of an Act of the local legislation, and contains a provision, not existing in that Act, intended to punish any person who clandestinely or with deceit enters any fortification, arsenal, factory, dockyard, or camp, such clandestine entrance being made punishable on the presumption that the object of the entrance is to obtain the knowledge of official secrets.

Ordinance No. IX. contains provisions concerning street begging, and amends Chapter 15 and Chapter 1 of the Police Laws, the first of which refers to "Porters and Guides," and the second to "Streets."

The Ordinance gives power to the Head of the Government to make regulations intended to put a stop to the annoyance caused by professional beggars and the other evils arising from the exercise of the trade pursued by this class of people. But the most important provision of the Act is that which extends the provision of the Police Laws as regards "Porters" to persons employed in loading and unloading ships, who therefore must now obtain a licence from the police to exercise their trade, are subject to any regulations which the Head of the Government may make concerning their trade, and cannot claim higher wages than those which may be established in any tariff made by the

MALTA, 1899.

Government. A tariff of wages was therefore established, based on the wages which have been paid during the last ten years, and made binding on all parties concerned. On comparison, the established wages were found to be generally lower than those which are being paid at Port Said and in Algiers.

Ordinance No. XI. consolidates and amends the laws concerning patents and makes provisions for the protection of designs and trade marks. An attempt had been made in 1893 to legislate as regards patents, and Ordinance No. V. of that year was passed with this object; but the legislation on the subject, as compared with that of England and of other countries, was incomplete, and designs and trade marks were protected in a very inadequate manner, so much so that it was found, in practice, impossible to obtain a conviction against persons making a fraudulent use of trade marks.

The Ordinance now embodies as many of the provisions of the "Patents, Designs, and Trade Marks Act, 1883," and of the "Merchandize Marks Act, 1887," (as amended by subsequent statutes) as are necessary for the protection of industrial property in Malta, and puts into effect the suggestion contained in the Circular Despatch from the Secretary of State for the Colonies of the 9th November, 1898, in regard to the treatment of goods passing through Malta in transit for re-exportation.

The Schedule of fees annexed to the Ordinance is now framed on the Schedule of fees payable in England on patents, designs, and trade marks; the fees payable in Malta have, however, been fixed at a rate generally much below that adopted in England.

Ordinance No. XII. was passed as a precautionary measure, in view of the spread of plague, to provide for the notification of suspected cases of plague or of diseases resembling plague to the Sanitary Authorities, and for the prevention and mitigation of such diseases. By this measure (*a*) the Chief Government Medical Officer has the power to enter at any time any place where he thinks that a case, even of suspected plague, has occurred, although it may not have been reported, and it empowers the Chief Government Medical Officer to give any instructions that may be required for the segregation and removal of the sick person to any hospital or other place, for any necessary disinfection of persons, places or things, and for any other precautions against the spread of the disease: (*b*) as soon as it has been ascertained, from the above inspection of the Chief Government Medical officer that plague or a disease resembling plague exists in these Islands, the Head of the Government may order that all, or any of the provisions of the Ordinance shall come into force, after hearing the opinion of the Board of Health; (*c*) the Head of the Government is not bound to revoke the above Order before it shall have been ascertained that plague has ceased to exist or before hearing the opinion of the Board of Health.

Ordinance No. XIII. amends Article 307 of the Criminal Laws in regard to males considered to be leading an idle and vagrant life or to be living on the earnings of prostitution, and also Article 34 of the "Aliens Laws," thereby extending, to male aliens who have resided in these Islands for three or more years, the provisions of the law dealing with the expulsion of aliens who have been condemned for any crime or for leading an idle and vagrant life, or for living on the earnings of a prostitute.

EDUCATION.

Education in Malta is not compulsory, and elementary instruction is principally imparted in Government schools, which are free.

There are 38 schools for boys, 39 for girls, five infant schools, and 31 night schools, with 15,669 pupils on the roll, of whom 8,581 are males and 7,088 females; besides two secondary schools with 130 pupils, a technical and manual school with 15 boys, a Lyceum with 393 scholars, and a University, founded in 1769, with 81 students. At these latter two institutions the fees are extremely low, being 4*s*. and 10*s*. per quarter respectively for each student; only half the above fee is payable for each additional member of the same family, no fee being paid for the quarter comprising July, August, and September.

In addition to the above public schools there are 116 private schools and colleges, attended by 3,700 scholars.

University.

The Malta University has lately been recognised as a teaching body whose graduates are admissible to the final examination held by the Conjoint Board of the Colleges of Physicians and of Surgeons in England.

A similar privilege has been granted by the Society of Apothecaries, London.

The University was attended during the year 1898-1899 by 97 students, distributed as follows:—

Faculty of Literature and Science	20
„ „ Medicine	17
„ „ Law	8
„ „ Theology	1
Course of Pharmacy	5
Course of Notarial Studies	7
Special Course of Veterinary Science	16
„ „ „ Mathematics	5
Irregular Students in Faculty of Theology... ...	14
Irregular Students in Faculty of Literature and Science	4
Total	97

MALTA, 1899.

With the exception of the introduction of the special course of veterinary science and mathematics, there has been no change effected in the University curriculum.

In the matriculation examination held in 1899, 21 candidates qualified to enter the University. The introduction of a *viva voce* test in this examination is certain to be productive of much good, as it enables the examiners to propose a larger range of questions and to cover a wider field. It also ensures more attentive reading, more thorough preparation, and the exercise of other faculties, besides the memory, on the part of the candidates.

Lyceum.

The Lyceum was attended by 393 students, against 458 in the preceding year; 316 of these received instruction in the ordinary or obligatory subjects, and 77 in the extra or voluntary subjects.

The 316 regular students were distributed thus: 146 belonged to the higher course (91 classical, 55 modern), and 170 were in the lower course; besides, 75 of those attended some of the voluntary classes. Of the 77 students who attended the voluntary classes only, 28 were artisans in the night drawing school.

The results of the annual examinations were on the whole satisfactory, the percentage of passes ranged from 99 in English to 57 in history.

The simplification of programmes in 1898 has brought the standard of work to a level more suitable to local requirements than it was hitherto.

The Oxford local examinations were held in Malta for the first time in 1899, but as it was not possible to devote any time to the special preparation which was necessary only three candidates from the Lyceum presented themselves.

It is now under consideration whether the Lyceum programme should be framed to meet more closely the requirements of the Oxford Local Examination Board.

A class of marine engineering was started at the end of 1898. It has been so far successful. It was attended by 14 apprentices, of whom 12 presented themselves for examination; eight secured pass marks.

Secondary Schools.

The secondary school for boys in Gozo, attended by 12 students in the higher class, and by 21 in the lower, has improved since last year. The programmes have, as far as practicable, been drawn up on the same lines as those of the Lyceum higher course, but of a standard corresponding to that of the second class.

The young ladies' secondary school, in Valletta, was attended by 96 students, against 108 in the preceding year.

The appointment of a trained and experienced English teacher as head mistress in the young ladies' secondary school is a step that is expected to raise the standard and improve the attendance of the school.

Technical and Manual School.

This school is now held in the "Palazzo Industriale." Its administration has recently been provisionally transferred, under Government control, to the Society of Arts, Manufacture, and Commerce. It was attended by 15 apprentices 11 of whom were instructed in modelling in clay and wood-carving, and four in cabinet-making.

The total expenditure borne by Government in the maintenance of these establishments in the year 1898-1899 was £7,379 2*s.* 4*d.*, distributed as follows:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
University	3,378	2	4
Matriculation Examinations	78	6	0
Lyceum	3,176	2	7
Secondary School—Malta	278	9	7
„ „ —Gozo	269	0	6
Technical and Manual School	199	1	4
	7,379	2	4

The total income was:—

Paid as fees to the University	224	5	4			
Paid as fees to Lyceum ...	254	16	0			
Paid as fees to the Ladies Secondary School ...	200	11	8			
From Commissions executed in Technical School ...	49	16	5			
				729	9	5
Total nett Expenditure				6,649	12	11

Elementary Schools.

A new scheme of instruction in all the elementary schools, prepared by a special commission appointed in 1898, and approved by the General Council of the University, was only sanctioned by the Government in April, 1899, that is, towards the end of the average scholastic year. It is difficult therefore to report how far the progress made in these schools during the year was due to the radical changes introduced in the curriculum under the new system. It appears, however, that these changes have already

been productive of beneficial results, and that the efficiency of the teaching has materially improved.

The annual examinations carried out by the Inspector and the Inspecting Staff, clearly showed, by the generally satisfactory results obtained, that the teachers had, as a rule, done their best to perform the new task imposed upon them, which was harder than in the previous years.

The number of passes was, under the circumstances, lower, the average having been 85·9, as against 86·0 % in the preceding year, as the examinations were carried out in as searching a manner as was reasonably possible with a view to guard against cramming, from which the instruction in the elementary schools is known to have suffered so much under the former system.

The schools during the year were attended, on an average, by 13,028 children in the day classes, and by 2,082 pupils in the night classes, a total of 15,110. The corresponding percentage of attendance was 79·7 % of the number of pupils as registered on the roll of the day schools, and 48·2 % in the case of the night schools.

The number of children admitted during the year was 5,031, and 4,440 were withdrawn from the schools during the same period, leaving as many as 6,591 still seeking admission, against 7,021 for whom no accommodation could be provided in the preceding year.

The necessity of more convenient accommodation has become more accentuated since physical drill has, by the new programme, been made compulsory in all the schools. As a matter of fact, physical drill has been readily taken up by the children and, combined with a short break in the morning hours for recreation, has been attended with very satisfactory results. Where a proper course was possible, it has greatly contributed to general smartness in the other school work, and has caused a marked improvement in the general attendance. In many cases, however, the premises of the schools are not such as to provide the necessary accommodation, the playgrounds being either deficient or altogether wanting.

The expenditure incurred by Government for the maintenance of these schools was £14,636 4*s.* 9*d.*, of which £11,971 11*s.* 3*d.* for personal emoluments and £2,664 13*s.* 6*d.* for other charges, such as rent, cost of school articles, and other incidental expenses, exclusive of the cost of minor works and the expenses made in connection with the building of new school premises, and in the up-keep of the existing ones.

The average cost per pupil, calculated on the above expenditure, was 18*s.* 8*d.*, or 19*s.* 4*d.* per pupil attending in 1899, against 25*s.* 4*d.* in the previous year.

GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

Hospitals and Asylums.

The returns of the five hospitals existing in Malta and Gozo show that 442 persons were inmates at the close of the year 1898, of whom 315 were males and 127 females; during 1899, 3,283 persons were admitted, of whom 1,956 were males and 1,327 females; 2,866 patients were discharged, of whom 1,907 were completely cured and 164 were relieved; the number of deaths in all the institutions was 425.

The total number of persons maintained and cared for in the asylums in Malta, and in the Ospizio at Gozo during the year was 2,435, of which 888 in the Lunatic Asylum, 1,238 in the Poor-house, including the Magdalen Asylum and Foundling Hospital, 115 in the Orphan Asylum, and 194 in the Ospizio of Gozo; the average daily number being 1,949.

Besides the above institutions there are in Malta and Gozo 31 Government dispensaries where medical assistance is afforded to the poor in the several towns and villages by 25 district medical officers, and a system of out-door relief, conducted by the Commissioners of Charity, by which alms are distributed to poor persons who cannot suitably be admitted into the charitable institutions.

99,370 cases of disease were attended to during the year by the above medical officers at the dispensaries or at the patients' dwellings; 4,135 vaccinations were performed by the same officers in the towns and villages, of which only 236 were unsuccessful; 1,754 persons received pecuniary assistance in monthly allowances, or as "immediate relief," in special cases of distress; 130 foundlings and other children were kept at nurse; and 728 burials of paupers (who either died in the fortified towns, where intra-mural interments are prohibited, or died from infectious diseases in any part of the Island) were at the expense of the Government.

The total expenditure incurred by the Government for the maintenance of all the above charities and for carrying out the other services above enumerated, amounted to £46,093 3*s.* 10*d.*, or more than one-eighth of the total expenditure of the Government for the same year.

The above sum does not include the cost of the works of a recurrent nature and of the new works effected in the charitable institutions during the year, amounting to £7,044 1*s.* 11*d.* in Malta, and £86 4*s.* 11*d.* in Gozo.

There are several private charities and institutes or industrial schools in Malta, but only two of these received a subsidy from

MALTA, 1899.

the Government in 1899, viz., St. Joseph's Institute and the Institute of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd.

In the former 42 destitute boys attend school, and are trained by competent artificers in industrial occupations, such as printing, bookbinding, carpentering, tailoring, and shoemaking. There is, besides, a class of instrumental music, an accomplishment which, in addition to a trade, is found to be a great help to the boys in earning their living when they are discharged from the Institution.

The Sisters of the Good Shepherd keep a class of penitents, and an orphanage for girls, whose number was 52 at the close of the year. The "penitents" and the orphans are employed in industrial work suited to their sex, such as cutting and sewing, embroidering, knitting and weaving; some of the "penitents" are likewise occupied in cultivating the grounds annexed to the building.

Both these institutions depend, to a great extent, on the earnings of their inmates in industrial and agricultural occupations, but they receive a great deal of support and assistance from voluntary contributions.

SAVINGS BANKS.

The following tabular statement will show the business transacted by the Malta Savings Bank and its Gozo branch during the last two years:—

Year.	Number of depositors on 31st December.	Amount of deposits during the year.	Amount of withdrawals during the Year.	Total amount at credit of depositors on 31st December.
	£	£	£	£
1898	6,657	99,113	102,606	519,038
1899	6,750	105,195	109,797	522,148

The expense of management and interest credited to depositors in 1899 was £3,660 17*s.* 6*d.*, against £8,578 17*s.* 3*d.* in 1898, while the revenue collected in 1899 was £14,035 10*s.* 3*d.*, leaving a net profit of £5,374 12*s.* 9*d.* on the year's transaction, as against £4,465 16*s.* 10*d.* in 1898.

JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

Police.

The number of persons reported to the police in 1899 was 5,650, of whom 857 were for the commission of offences against the person, 38 for offences against the good order of families, 268 for offences against property, and 4,487 for other offences.

Prisons.

The total number of persons committed in 1899 was 5,960, against 5,236 in 1898; of these 4,721 were men, 388 women, and 851 juveniles, 12 being girls; 2,407 of the prisoners had one previous conviction, 1,402 had been convicted twice, and 1,006 were habitual offenders, having been convicted thrice or more; the daily average number in the prisons was 300, and the daily average on the sick list 7; there was only one death—from heart disease.

The number of punishments inflicted on persons undergoing sentence was 164, viz.:—

Solitary confinement on bread and water	69
Dark cell on bread and water	4
Reduction from class	29
Admonished	62
	164

The cost of the prisons, including the Gozo common gaol amounting to £4,923 1*s.* 0*d.*, of which the sum of £527 pended for the maintenance of consular, military and prisoners, was recouped, leaving a net expenditure £4,107 14*s.* 7*d.* in 1898.

Criminal Statistics.

The criminal statistics show a decrease in crime of a serious nature, of which the Island is singularly free, though this year's return is, unfortunately, disfigured by no less than three cases of murder and one of manslaughter.

The number of persons apprehended by the police, or summoned before the magistrates for the commission of offences of the same class as those reported under "Police," was 9,506, of whom 656 were acquitted or discharged for want of prosecution, 8,816 were summarily convicted, and 219 committed for trial in the Superior courts.

Of the 184 indictments in Her Majesty's Criminal Court 149 resulted in judgment for the Crown and 35 in acquittals. The convictions were, three for murder other than wife and child

murder, one for manslaughter, 57 for other offences against the person, three for robbery with violence, 37 other offences against property, 28 offences against the good order of families, four for false evidence, and 16 for miscellaneous offences.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Population.

The civil population of these Islands for 1899 is estimated at 181,648, an increase of 16,611 over the population returned in the census for 1891, and of 1,320 over the population of 1898.

The birth rate for the year is 37. The death rate 25·91—a slight increase over last year in the mortality amongst adults.

Public Health.

The general state of the public health has been good. The percentage of deaths under five years to total deaths is the lowest for the last five years. There were 239 deaths from zymotic diseases, or 4·9 per cent. to total deaths. The rate was 4·4 for last year, but the slight increase is entirely due to the inclusion of pneumonia and broncho pneumonia among scheduled diseases.

The death rate in the urban zone (the fortified towns), which is drained, was, for the year, 22·53. The death rate for the suburban undrained zone was 30·44. The death rate for the rural area was 26·61.

Sanitation.

The existence of plague on the shores of the Mediterranean increased the vigilance in sanitary matters. A vote for precautionary measures and a law for preventing the propagation of plague were passed by the Council of Government, and regulations were drafted, and hospitals and observation and disinfecting stations were organized, and all necessary remedies and appliances were procured, and other precautions were taken, including measures calculated to bring about the destruction of rats.

Climate.

The total rainfall for the year was 17 824 inches.

The following meteorological return for 1899 shows the prevailing temperature for each month of the year, the rainfall, and general direction of wind:—

Month.	Temperature.						Rainfall.		Winds.	
	Solar maximum.	Minimum of grass.	Shade maximum.	Shade minimum.	Range (mean daily).	Mean.	Amount in inches.	Degree of humidity.	General Direction.	Average Force.
	°	°	°	°	°	°				
January	120·0	35·5	65·5	43·2	11·5	54·4	1·464	80	W.	0·43245
February ...	129·6	40·0	66·1	44·0	10·9	55·2	1·519	85	W. & S.W.	0·53045
March	133·9	39·9	76·9	44·9	11·9	56·7	0·839	80	E. & S.W.	0·75645
April	136·6	42·5	77·0	48·4	13·0	60·0	0·110	77	N.W.	0·72000
May	150·0	48·7	84·3	54·3	14·6	65·9	—	75	E. & N.W.	0·37845
June	151·6	52·9	87·7	58·8	14·6	71·1	0·546	73	N. & N.W.	0·50000
July	147·5	57·7	94·6	59·0	16·3	75·2	—	67	N. & N.W.	0·43245
August	149·5	59·4	92·5	66·2	16·4	77·7	—	66	E. & N.W.	0·16225
September ...	146·3	55·1	91·5	61·7	15·2	74·7	1·872	79	S.E. & N.W.	0·25720
October	138·6	53·1	83·1	58·1	12·3	70·0	2·880	82	E. & S.E.	0·21780
November ...	132·9	44·6	76·1	49·1	11·0	62·1	4·650	80	E.S.E.	0·37125
December ...	123·8	39·8	67·7	46·7	10·7	57·2	3·992	79	S.W.	0·05832

MALTA, 1899.

POSTAL SERVICE.

The revenue and cost of the Post Office in 1899 as compared with those of 1898 were as follows:—

——	1898.	1899.	Decrease.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Total Postal Revenue ...	15,781 12 0	14,397 7 7	1,184 4 5
Total Cost of Postal Service.	16,931 2 2	13,743 18 4	3,187 3 10

The decreased revenue of 1899 was caused, principally, by the introduction of Intercolonial Penny Postage, payments on account of International Transit Rates having also, in the case of certain countries, been still due at the close of the year. There was, however, no deficit in 1899, as, when comparing the total revenue with the total expenditure, it is found that a net profit of £853 9*s*. 3*d*. was realized in 1899.

The decreased expenditure in 1899 was caused by the fact that a large amount of arrears for International Transit Rates having been settled with foreign postal offices in 1898, the claims paid for 1899 were consequently below the amount disbursed in the previous year for these services.

The subjoined statement of the total number of letters, &c., dealt with in the same years shows a small decrease in the number of letters received and despatched, which in some degree is compensated by an important increase in the number of post cards. There is also a decrease in the number of parcels as well as in the printed articles, which is ascribed to the movements of troops during the latter portion of the year:—

Articles.	Received and Despatched.		Increase (+) or Decrease (−) per cent. in 1899.
	1898.	1899.	
Letters	4,198,786	4,138,030	− 1·4
Post Cards... ...	153,350	163,505	+ 6·6
Printed Matter ...	2,402,322	2,363,972	− 1·6
Parcels Post ...	51,187	49,309	− 3·6
Total ...	6,805,645	6,714,816	——

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

The chief works upon which expenditure was incurred in 1899 were the completion of the leper asylum for men, the completion of the new abattoir, the completion of the quarantine establishment on Comino Island, and the extension of the railway. Over £28,054 were also expended in the remodelling and constructing roads and streets, and in the upkeep of the same.

Railway.

As already stated under "Revenue," the gross earnings of the railway in 1899 amounted to £7,318 4*s.* 10*d.*, an increase of £210 1*s.* 6½*d.* over the receipts in 1898. This undertaking is steadily progressing, and is expected to become more remunerative now that the extension of the line to Imtarfa barracks, which has been effected by driving a tunnel under Notabile at a cost of nearly £20,000, is completed and opened to the public.

The working expenses were £5,366 12*s.* 9*d.*, an increase of £219 0*s.* 2*d.* as compared with the expenses incurred in 1898. The increase is principally due to the increased price of coal which constitutes the chief item of expenditure.

The profits, amounting to £1,951 12*s.* 1*d.*, were disposed of as follows:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Interest on capital expended for the new extension of the line	975	1	5
Reserve fund	299	12	9
Purchase of a new boiler for engine No. 1...	469	10	6
Works in connection with Birchircara Station	41	7	5
Passed to the railway credit for net profit	166	0	0
	1,951	12	1

The following statement shows the progress of the railway as compared with the year of starting:—

—	1893.	1898.	1899.
	£	£	£
1. Capital spent in equipment.	14,653	32,110	36,044
2. Gross revenue	4,859	7,108	7,318
3. Working expenses ...	3,862	5,147	5,366
4. Profit on working ...	996	1,960	1,951
5. Train mileage	58,004	82,792	82,820
6. Number of passengers...	626,912	1,063,013	1,110,006

MALTA, 1899.

Many substantial repairs and renewals have been effected in the rolling stock in the workshops of the railway, and improvements have also been made in the several stations out of revenue, but other improvements of importance are still necessary.

Financial Position of the Island.

With regard to the pecuniary position of the Island there is, as to finances, a lamentable absence of statistical information, except as regards the returns published by the Government Treasury; the information given below can therefore only be considered as representing an approximate opinion based on the individual view of persons in a position to form an estimate.

This information may be classified as follows:—

(*a*) Value of the landed property; (*b*) investment of money in securities (other than Government securities); (*c*) money in deposit; (*d*) money in circulation; and (*e*) value of gold or silver bullion and ornaments of precious stones.

With regard to (*a*) the total value of landed property in both the Islands of Malta and Gozo is estimated at £4,500,500, yielding an annual income from the letting thereof of about £135,150.

(*b*) The amount of money invested by local capitalists in British and foreign securities may be safely estimated at £2,000,000, giving an average return of 3½%, say £70,000 of income.

(*c*) Money in deposit: The Government Savings Bank is the principal bank wherein money is deposited by petty traders, and generally by persons of thrift in both Islands who are not regularly in trade. On the 31st December last the number of depositors was 6,750, and the amount standing to their credit was £522,148. Of this sum £105,111 are placed in the bank for safe custody, and without earning any interest for the depositors. The Government hold, besides, on deposit, a sum of £21,937 belonging to 45 persons who preferred not to withdraw certain deposits, but to leave the same in the hands of the Government at 2% interest on the occasion of the conversion of the Sicilian dollars when demonetized by the Italian Government in 1885. There are also local banking companies and private banks, wherein moneys, as fixed deposits, are accepted at a rate of interest varying according to the period during which they are so deposited. Of the extent of these deposits no positive information is available, but they may be approximately estimated at say £100,000.

The amounts of money placed in deposit in banks (other than private banks) may therefore be recapitulated as follows:—

	£
In Government Savings Bank	522,148
In Dollar Conversion Fund	21,937
In the Anglo-Maltese Bank (authorized capital £50,000, and subscribed capital about £9,000), Banco di Malta (authorized capital £50,000, and subscribed capital about £10,000), and Anglo-Egyptian Bank (a Branch of the great institution having its head office in London, subscribed capital £1,200,000, and paid-up capital £400,000)...	100,000
	644,085

No estimate is available as to the deposits in private banks, or of the capital of the partners; the principal private banks are Messrs. G. Scicluna and Sons, Messrs. James Bell & Co., and Messrs. Ellul Brothers.

(*d*) Money in circulation: It is not possible to obtain exact data of the amount of specie in circulation in Malta, where the same is subject to fluctuation on account of the sums imported and exported for the requirements of Her Majesty's fleet and other Imperial services. It may, however, be estimated that there is in Malta about £520,000 circulating in specie, besides £20,000 in notes of the Anglo-Maltese Bank and of the "Banco di Malta."

From the above the estimated capital in money and securities at present belonging to these Islands appears to be:—

	£
Money invested	2,000,000
„ on deposit	644,085
„ in circulation	540,000
Total	3,184,085

(*e*) The value of the jewellery existing in these Islands is very considerable, and is probably increasing rapidly; it may be estimated at about £1,000,000.

MALTA, 1899.

The Banking Laws are inadequate; the issue of notes should be regulated by law, and all banks, public or private, should be required to declare the capital belonging to themselves or their partners on which the gain of a certain percentage is declared.

I have, &c.,

G. STRICKLAND,

Chief Secretary to Government.

LONDON:
PRINTED FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE,
By DARLING & SON, Ltd., 34-40, Bacon Street, E.

1900.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 329.

MALTA.

REPORT FOR 1900.

(For Report for 1899, *see* No. 295.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
August, 1901.

LONDON:
PRINTED FOR HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE,
By DARLING & SON, Ltd., 34-40, Bacon Street, E.

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1901.

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COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other, reports relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
305	Gibraltar	1899
306	Gold Coast	,,
307	Ceylon	,,
308	Leeward Islands	,,
309	St. Helena	,,
310	British Honduras	,,
311	St. Lucia	1899–1900
312	St. Vincent	1899
313	Basutoland	,,
314	Hong Kong	1899–1900
315	Southern Nigeria	,,
316	Grenada	1899
317	Jamaica	1899–1900
318	British Guiana	,,
319	Christmas Island	1900
320	British Solomon Islands	1899–1900
321	Lagos	1900
322	Bermuda	,,
323	St. Helena	,,
324	Sierra Leone	,,
325	Gambia	,,
326	Barbados	,,
327	Bahamas	,,
328	Turks and Caicos Islands	,,

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada	Emigration.
5	Bahamas	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific	British Solomon Islands.
9	Dominica	Agriculture.
10	Virgin Islands	Condition during 1897.
11	Grenada	Agriculture in Carriacou.
12	Anguilla	Vital Statistics, 1898.
13	Cook Islands	Trade, 1899.
14	Bahamas	Fibre Industry.
15	Canada	Legal Status of British North American Indians.
16	Miscellaneous Colonies	Medical Reports.

No. 329.

MALTA, 1900.

MALTA.

(For Report for 1899, *see* No. 295.)

GOVERNOR SIR F. W. GRENFELL to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

The Palace,
Valletta,
13th July, 1901.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward, herewith, for your information, the Chief Secretary's report on the Malta Blue Book for the year 1900.

I have, &c.,

F. GRENFELL,
Governor.

607—875—7/1901 Wt 25152 D & S—5

MALTA, 1900.

REPORT ON MALTA BLUE BOOK FOR THE YEAR 1900.

Chief Secretary's Office,

Valletta,

6th July, 1901.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to submit the following Report on the Malta Blue Book for the year 1900:—

GENERAL REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

The accounts for the past financial year show a total revenue of £357,524 13*s.* 3¼*d.*, with an expenditure of £365,943 17*s.* 1½*d.* Of the expenditure £359,202 19*s.* 8½*d.* was charged to the Consolidated Revenue, the balance, £6,740 17*s.* 5*d.*, being the value of stores issued and adjustments from Surplus and Deficit Accounts; the excess of expenditure over revenue was covered by the transfer of £1,678 6*s.* 5¼*d.* in aid of revenue from the General Revenue Fund.

The actual revenue collected in 1900 under the ordinary sources was £356,758 6*s.* 10¾*d.*, or £4,257 13*s.* 1¼*d.* below the forecast, and £2,492 11*s.* 8½*d.* over the actual receipts of the previous year.

The revenue for the last five years, exclusive of stores and adjustments, is shown hereunder:—

Year.	Revenue.
	£ *s.* *d.*
1896	313,680 14 7
1897	323,787 5 10½
1898	332,488 18 1
1899	354,265 15 2¼
1900	356,758 6 10¾

The following table gives a comparison of the receipts for the last two years as classified under the various heads of revenue, exclusive of the value of stores issued and adjustments from Surplus and Deficit Account :—

Heads of Revenue.	Amount Collected in 1899.	Amount Collected in 1900.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1. Customs - -	197,421 5 9	193,367 19 2	—	4,053 6 7
2. Harbour and Quarantine Dues.	8,110 8 4	9,331 13 3	1,221 4 11	—
3. Licences - -	5,377 0 5½	5,519 5 10½	142 5 5½	—
3A. Stamp Duty- -	853 2 4	1,811 3 9½	958 1 5½	—
4. Fees and Reimbursements.	24,223 1 5¾	24,604 8 8	381 7 2¼	—
5. Post Office - -	14,597 7 7	15,219 18 4	622 10 9	—
5A. Railway - -	7,318 4 10	7,735 9 7½	417 4 9½	—
6. Water Service -	11,219 15 11½	11,898 3 4½	678 7 5	—
6A. Electric Lighting -	12,860 8 7	13,312 5 6	451 16 11	—
7. Rents, Rural - -	12,746 8 10¾	12,900 15 7½	154 6 8¾	—
8. Rents, Urban - -	27,734 14 6¾	27,627 3 0¾	—	107 11 6
9. Rents on account of Charitable Foundations.	4,001 1 2½	4,039 19 6	38 18 3½	—
10. Interest - - -	27,802 15 2¾	29,390 1 1½	1,587 5 10¾	—
Total - -	354,265 15 2¼	356,758 6 10¾	6,653 9 9½	4,160 18 1

It will be noticed from the above that increased revenue was obtained under all heads but two—"Customs" and "Urban Rents"—which show a decrease of £4,053 6*s.* 7*d.*, and £107 11*s.* 6*d.*, respectively. The decrease under "Customs" should not, however, be taken as an indication of a falling off in the consumption of any of the commodities subject to duty, it being entirely due to the rush, in 1899, to forestall the rise in the duty on spirits from 2*s.* 6*d.* to 5*s.* per gallon under the "Malta Revenue Order in Council, 1899," which produced in that year at 2*s.* 6*d.* per gallon £9,000 above the normal average of preceding years.

"Harbour and Quarantine Dues" show an appreciable increase of £1,221 4*s.* 11*d.*, due to a larger number of steamers entering this port, and to increased import of live stock (for food) from countries liable to quarantine restrictions.

The "Stamp Duty" has also yielded an increase, but no inference can be drawn by comparison of last year's receipts with

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those of the preceding year, as the latter covered only a period of four months and a half, the law having come in operation on the 4th August, 1899. As a matter of fact, on the basis of the receipts in the latter period, the revenue which should have been earned in 1900 would have been £2,274, whilst the receipts under this head amounted only to £1,811, or £463 below the proportion of the previous year. This points to some flaw in the law which should be remedied to reap the full advantage of the enactment.

The Post Office has shown an increase of £622 10*s.* 9*d.* notwithstanding the adoption of the Imperial Penny Postage; and it may now be confidently stated that the postal revenue not only covers its ordinary expenditure, but allows of a surplus being carried to the profit of the general public revenue.

The railway, water service, and electric lighting, are three services administered by the Government on co-operative municipal principles, which produced, last year, an improved revenue, showing the creditable manner in which these undertakings have been administered, and at the same time the appreciation on the part of the public, of the improvements introduced by the Government in these institutions. The following return shows the financial progress of the above services during the last five years:—

Year.	Railway.	Water Dues and Meter Rent.	Electric Light.
	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*
1896	7,020 16 3	7,442 7 5	—
1897	6,705 2 11¾	7,573 4 10	9,122 14 2
1898	7,108 3 3	8,200 12 8	11,236 8 1
1899	7,318 4 10	8,880 15 6½	12,860 8 7
1900	7,735 9 7½	9,628 17 11	13,312 5 6

GENERAL RESERVE FUND.

The balance of this fund on 2nd January, 1900, was £37,148 1*s.* 7¼*d.*; on the 2nd January, 1901, after appropriating therefrom a sum of £1,678 6*s.* 5¼*d.*—to cover an equal deficiency in the public revenue, and also the expenditure incurred (£6,740 17*s.* 5*d.*)—it was reduced to £28,772 6*s.* 11*d.* At that date, there were against this latter balance, liabilities for unexpended balances of votes required for immediate expenditure to the amount of £12,030 0*s.* 10*d.*

IMMOVABLE PROPERTY ACCOUNT.

The balance of this fund on the 2nd January, 1900, was £2,349 1*s.* 9*d.*; on the 31st December of the same year that amount was increased to £3,698 19*s.* 2¾*d.* as available for expenditure subject to the provisions of Ordinance No. V. of 1891.

EXPENDITURE.

The provisions allocated for expenditure by grants on the Civil List, Order in Council, and Ordinances of Appropriation amounted, collectively, to £423,149 8*s.* 8½*d.* Out of these provisions £365,943 17*s.* 1½*d.* was actually expended, leaving an unexpended balance on the 31st December, 1900, of £57,205 11*s.* 7*d.*

The above expenditure, which does not include a sum of £6,817 1*s.* 7½*d.* chargeable to Immovable Property Account, was chargeable as follows:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
To Consolidated Revenue	359,202	19	8½
To General Reserve Fund	6,740	17	5
Total	£365,943	17	1½

and was allocated as follows:—

	£	*s.*	*d*
Personal emoluments	135,334	11	5
Other charges, including works, recurrent and extraordinary ...	230,609	5	8½
Total	£365,943	17	1½

The following comparative table gives in detail the expenditure incurred under each head of service (exclusive of that chargeable to the Immovable Property Account Fund hereafter reported on):—

Heads of Expenditure.	Amount Expended in 1899.	Amount Expended in 1900.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1. Interest and Burthens	18,928 15 10	18,866 7 3	—	62 8 7
2. Pensions	16,288 17 11	15,711 3 7	—	577 14 4
3. The Governor and Legislature	4,791 1 11	5,250 19 7	459 17 8	—
4. Chief Secretary	4,250 9 11	4,123 6 6	—	127 3 5
5. Receiver General	3,054 2 5¼	2,972 17 9	—	81 4 8¼
6. Customs and Port Department	11,233 10 7	9,955 9 1	—	1,278 1 6
7. Audit Office	1,670 14 9	1,704 17 2	34 2 5	—
8. Printing Office	1,216 12 8	1,236 3 5	19 10 9	—
9. Railway Department	6,641 6 9	7,555 1 2	913 14 5	—
9A. Railway Special Expenditure	510 17 11	160 19 6	—	349 18 5
9B. Technical School...	674 14 7	591 13 8	—	83 0 11
10. Legal Departments	22,471 17 9	22,866 8 4	394 10 7	—

11. Police Department	40,714 16 1	42,218 17 0	1,504 0 11	—	
11A. Public Health Department	9,005 15 7½	8,922 12 3½	—	83 3 4	
12. Prisons	4,771 15 10	4,282 12 8	—	489 3 2	
13. Charitable Institutions	48,914 2 4	51,252 0 1	2,337 17 9	—	
14. Educational Department	8,078 2 8	8,647 5 4	569 2 8	—	
14A. Elementary Schools	14,641 18 5	15,038 12 3	396 13 10	—	
14B. Public Libraries	734 2 11	741 0 5	6 17 6	—	
15. Post Office	13,743 18 4	14,730 1 1	986 2 9	—	
16. Ecclesiastical	854 0 7	947 1 0	93 0 5	—	
17. Military Expenditure	5,000 0 0	5,000 0 0	—	—	
18. Miscellaneous Services	17,538 18 9	17,987 11 4	448 12 7	—	
19. Superintendent of Works Department	5,377 2 5	5,406 4 6	29 2 1	—	
19A. Waterworks and Electric Lighting	25,915 6 8	29,924 3 6½	4,008 16 10½	—	
20. Public Works Recurrent	39,539 7 4	47,230 17 1	7,691 9 9	—	
21. Public Works and Waterworks Extraordinary	14,619 12 11	15,878 14 1½	1,259 1 2½	—	
21A Public Works and Water Works Special Expenditure ...	10,172 7 11	6,740 17 5	—	3,431 10 6	
Totals	351,354 11 9¾	365,943 17 1½	21,152 14 2	6,563 8 10¼	

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The above table shows increased expenditure under:—(*a*) "Governor and Legislature," due to the transfer of £450, salary of the Chief Government Medical Officer, to this head from another head of service; (*b*) "Railway Department," caused by the rise in the price of coal and interest on capital paid out for the Imtarfa Extension; (*c*) "Police," on account of the increase in the strength of the Marine Police and of the renewal of blankets for the whole force; (*d*) "Charitable Institutions," chiefly due to new salaries and allowances for the leper asylum; the increased number of inmates in the institutions entailing a larger consumption of provisions; rise in the cost of coal, and expenses incurred for fitting up a chapel and quarters for Sisters of Charity in the Manoel Hospital; (*e*) "Educational Establishment," by increases to salaries and augmentation of the staff of monitors and monitresses, subsidies and scholarships awarded to selected students, training of students of marine engineering, and hire of new school premises; (*f*) "Post Office," increased expenditure was due to the payment to Italy of Transit Rates due for the previous year, and to increase in the Parcel Post Service; (*g*) "Miscellaneous Services," due chiefly to remuneration to examiners in public competitions, overpayments of duties, greater expenditure for the restoration of the tapestry of the Council chamber, subsidy to the Braxia Cemetery, grant of colonial allowance to Maltese officers in the Imperial Army, manufacture of new revenue stamps, and renewal of registration of hypothecations; (*h*) "Electric Lighting," due to increase of salaries and wages, rise in the price of coal and of materials in general, and part cost of a new surface condenser: and (*i*) "Public Works Extraordinary," caused by increased works in connection with the water supply in both islands.

The only appreciable decreases in the expenditure were under (*a*) "Pensions," caused by the decease of a number of pensioners, chiefly at high rates of pension, as compared with the smaller grants during the year; (*b*) "Customs and Port Department," by the incorporation of Overseers of Deliveries and Custom house boatmen with the Marine Police Force; (*c*) "Railway," by the fact that the machinery provided for in the estimates was not delivered during the year; and (*d*) "Prisons," due to the reduction on the issue of provisions owing to a diminished number of prisoners as against the number victualled in the preceding year.

EXPENDITURE CHARGEABLE TO THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY ACCOUNT.

Out of this fund only one provision was appropriated by the Council in 1900 (£443) to enable the Government to expropriate certain lands which were being damaged by the roots of trees planted near Zabbar Gate and the Addolorata Cemetery. The actual expenditure incurred as chargeable against the balances

carried forward from grants voted out of this fund in previous years was the following :—

	£	s.	d.
For Malta railway	3,169	16	2
For new school at Cospicua... ...	3,647	5	5½
Total	6,817	1	7½

The total expenditure for the last five years, exclusive of the above sum of £6,817 1*s.* 7½*d.* incurred out of the Immovable Property Account, was as follows :—

Year.	Chargeable to Consolidated Revenue.	Chargeable to General Reserve Fund.	Totals.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1896	308,902 14 4¾	—	308,902 14 4¾
1897	320,710 6 3	3,963 1 7	324,673 7 10
1898	322,900 19 6½	16,181 19 8	339,082 19 2½
1899	341,182 3 10¾	10,172 7 11	351,354 11 9¾
1900	359 202 19 8½	6,740 17 5	365,943 17 1½

ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.

On the 31st December, 1899, the assets of the Government stood at £696,057 5*s.* 7¾*d.* and the liabilities at £681,611 3*s.* 9¼*d.*, leaving a surplus of £14,446 1*s.* 10½*d.*

On the 31st December, 1900, the assets were £698,854 19*s.* 3*d.* and the liabilities £695,185 1*s.* 9¾*d.*, leaving a balance in favour of the Government of £3,668 17*s.* 5¼*d.*

The following is the detail of the assets and liabilities as they stood on the 31st December last.

—	Liabilities.	Assets.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Investments in Imperial and Colonial Securities.	—	596,572 12 8
Investments in the Monte di Pietà ...	—	2,077 11 3¼
Funds deposited with the Anglo-Maltese Bank.	—	10,670 8 5
Bills Payable	—	65 13 6
Capital laid out for portion of furniture in Government Palaces.	—	1,833 2 9
Loans to the Monte di Pietà	—	52,500 0 0
Carried forward ...		663,719 8 7¼

Assets and Liabilities—cont.

	Liabilities.			Assets.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Brought forward ...				663,719	8	7½
Advances made by the Treasury ...		—		30,856	14	0½
Cash		—		4,278	16	7½
Court and other Deposits	64,574	15	8½		—	
Dollar Investment Fund	21,837	10	0		—	
Savings Bank	540,722	19	11¾		—	
Pappaffy Emigration Fund	10,025	0	0		—	
Administration Pappaffy Emigration Fund.	1,654	19	1¾		—	
Deposits for work allocated to Government Immovable Property under Ordinance V. of 1891.	2,577	9	7		—	
Reserve Funds, viz.:— £ s. d.						
General Reserve Fund 28,728 17 9						
Reserve Fund A.—To meet any possible losses on the sale of Consols. 12,368 14 8						
Reserve Fund B.—To provide against the redemption at par of investments purchased at prices above par. 7,472 19 3						
Reserve Fund.—Palace Furniture. 111 16 2						
Reserve Fund.—Railway. 520 12 5						
Reserve Fund.—Electric Lighting. 891 7 11						
	50,094	8	2		—	
Immovable Property Deposit Account	3,698	19	2¾		—	
	695,186	1	9¾	698,854	19	3
Total Liabilities				695,186	1	9¾
Surplus...				3,668	17	5¼

CURRENCY.

Accounts are kept in sterling both by the Government and the commercial community; a few traders, however, of the Marina and villages still continue to keep their accounts according to the old style in Scudi, Tari and Grains, although Maltese coins were demonetized and withdrawn from circulation in 1886 when British coins were, by Order in Council of the 24th of September of that year, made the only legal tender in these islands.

The currency consists of British gold and silver, gold coins below legal tender weight being rejected, and the limit to which

silver and bronze coins are receivable is fixed at five pounds and one shilling respectively.

The system of making payments by cheques is now adopted with advantage by nearly the whole commercial community.

The circulation of counterfeit silver coins took alarming proportion in the course of last year, but was checked by the measures taken by the authorities to detect the culprits.

The rates of exchange for cheques on London in the course of the year did not fluctuate to an appreciable extent; there was, however, a fluctuation in the exchange for long paper on account of the Bank Rate of Discount in London. Exchanges on Italy ranged between 26·30 and 26·90, the average rate for the year being 26·35.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

It has already been stated in former reports, but it does not appear to be generally known that, in the absence of a statistical department in Malta, it is not possible to give an official estimate of the exportation of local produce, and that, as to imports, the only reliable data on which the Customs statistics can be based are those relating to the principal articles of food which are subject to duty.

The imports and exports of dutiable goods for 1900 show a considerable increase in value compared with the totals for the preceding year. The value of the imports was £7,434,289 against £6,668,961, an increase of £765,328; that of exports £6,471,567 against £5,449,501, an increase of £1,022,066.

The increase in the imports is due principally to larger importation of goods in transit from foreign countries and, in a smaller extent, to improvement of the imports from the United Kingdom, there having been a decrease in the importation of goods from the British possessions.

The imports from the United Kingdom amounted to £305,010 against £297,830 in 1899, an increase of £7,180, chiefly due to beer, farinaceous food, especially manufactured grain, and potatoes; while preserved meat, cotton seed oil, spirits and wine have shown a decline.

Imports from the British possessions were lower in the case of wheat and higher as regards fresh, frozen, and preserved beef and mutton.

Imports from foreign countries were higher in regard to bullocks, horses, wheat, barley, "saggina," inferior grain and cotton-seed oil: and lower in the case of Indian corn, olive oil, potatoes, spirits, and wine.

It may be remarked that the increase in the imports from foreign countries, with the exception of bullocks, horses, manufactured grain and cotton seed oil, was in articles in transit, while there was a decrease in goods landed for local consumption.

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The following table shows in detail the value of the total imports together with the amount of duty collected on the articles landed for

—	United Kingdom.		British Possessions.		H.M.'s Ships.	
	1899.	1900.	1899.	1900.	1899.	1900.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Beer	99,319	108,596	—	—	45	86
Beef and Mutton (fresh, frozen & preserved).	1,152	955	19,838	25,080	20	6
Bullocks	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sheep	17	—	—	—	—	—
Horses	375	260	22	—	—	—
Mules	—	—	—	—	—	—
Wheat	6,707	126	9,555 *378,732	9,045 *50,016	—	—
Indian corn	43	9	—	—	—	—
Barley	4	11	1	4,874	—	—
Saggina	—	—	537	40	—	—
Other inferior grain	18	—	—	—	2	—
Grain refuse	1	—	—	—	2	2
Manufactured grain	150,980	166,220	—	—	1,516	571
Do. do. (damaged)	2	104	—	—	342	—
Oil (olive)	168	105	—	—	79	27
Oil (cotton)	6,806	5,505	-	—	1	—
Potatoes	15,671	16,345	—	—	4	9
Pulse	2,148	516	—	153	24	11
Seeds	—	—	—	—	1	—
Spirits	10,782	8,895	—	—	34	73
Vinegar	171	117	—	—	1	.
Wine	3,466	2,246	—	—	134	262
Total	297,830	305,010	408,685	89,208	2,255	987
Increase in 1900	—	7,180	—	—	—	—
Decrease do.	—	—	—	319,477	—	1,268

* Proceeded in the

in 1900, as compared with the figures of the preceding year, local consumption during the same years.

Foreign Countries.		Total.		Amount of Duty Collected.					
1899.	1900.	1899.	1900.	1899.			1900.		
£	£	£	£	£	s.	d.	£	.	
1,385	966	100,749	109,648	17,217	12	4	19,775	18	
21	155	21,031	26,196	3,004	14	2	3,965	7	10
113,356	151,880	113,353	151,880	10,966	18	4	12,969	3	9
1,294	1,916	1,311	1,916	195	17	6	285	16	6
3,556	5,001	3,953	5,261	855	0	0	439	0	0
1,092	766	1,092	766	98	0	0	59	0	0
118,163 *3,165,709	135,614 *4,168,721	134,425 *3,544,441	144,785 *4,213,737	38,933	19	0	34,179	12	3
322 *561,501	610 *316,763	365 *561,501	619 *316,763	147	16	2	114	4	1
4,718 *972,282	5,746 *1,211,151	4,723 *972,282	5,757 *1,216,025	474	9	6	386	14	3
12,795	12,946	13,382	12,983	1,566	17	8	2,038	3	0
52 *610,863	169 *642	72 *610,863	169 *642,860	13	6	11	29	3	0
308		311	690	41	1	11	92	4	4
36,070	6	188,566	226,994	41,360	8	4	49,052	2	4
2	14	346	118	49	15	1	16	18	0
42,964	35,482	43,211	35,614	564	3	9	465	3	9
14,030	23,105	20,887	28,610	2,336	7	6	2,526	17	0
14,246	9,873	29,921	26,227	3,138	14	7	2,620	18	10
60,876 *3,544	73,104 *18,075	3,554 *63,048	73,784 *18,075	4,137	8	11	5,301	8	9
37,216	38,734	37,217	38,734	2,281	3	0	2,543	18	4
20,156	5,715	30,972	9,683	34,872	13	4	18,307	15	8
92	191	264	308	68	16	10	78	18	10
163,578	123,636	167,228	126,084	35,596	0	11	38,119	10	7
5,960,191	7,039,084	6,668,961	7,434,289	197,421	5	9	193,367	19	2
—	1,078,893	—	765,328	—			—		
—	—	—	—	—			4,053	6	7

same bottom.

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The above comparative statement shows an appreciable increase in the importation of beer, notwithstanding the quantities now being manufactured locally. This is partly to be ascribed to an increased consumption by sailors on shore, and, partly, to the preference now given to this beverage by a large section of the civil community.

The increase under cattle is mainly due to a larger consumption of meat by the Army and Navy, to the ordinary increase of the population, and also to the fact that the lower classes of the community, who years ago made use of meat only occasionally, are gradually becoming better customers for such food. The increase in the importation of cattle has naturally brought about an improvement in the importation of pulse for local consumption, the value of which last year amounted to £73,784 against £3,554 in 1899.

Judging from the duty paid on wheat in 1900, there was a decrease in the importation of that article as compared with 1899, while manufactured grain shows a considerable increase. It is clear that a decided preference is now being given to imported flour, and it is expected that the importation of wheat will, ere long, be limited to the quantity required for the Army and Navy and for use in the manufacture of macaroni and other sorts of "paste." Such preference may be ascribed :—

1. To the price of imported flour being lower than that of flour produced locally ; (*a*) in view of the fact that soft wheat, and some inferior qualities of wheat, which can be obtained from different countries, are used in the manufacture of imported flour, whilst hard Taganrog wheat is principally imported here, the cost of which is regulated partly by prices in Russia and partly by the extent to which the few local merchants succeed in combining to raise it ; (*b*) in view of the improvements which are being constantly introduced by British and foreign manufacturers in their plant, enabling them to obtain a better result by extracting every available particle from the grain, thereby reducing the cost of the flour produced.

One of the reasons why only hard Taganrog wheat is imported in Malta is that, as a rule, the local mills are not suited for other qualities. Another reason is that, inasmuch as the duty is levied according to measure, soft wheat (which would produce a smaller quantity of flour) would be paying the same amount of duty ;

2. To the quality being finer, on account of suitable mixtures of different kinds of wheat being made in the production of imported flour, and of the superiority of the plant employed in its manufacture. Flour so produced makes a superior quality

of bread and is mixed to give a white appearance to the ordinary "Maltese bread" used all over the island; and

3. To the greater facilities attending the importation and retailing of imported flour which enables a larger number of persons, though of limited capital, to deal in such article and to import small consignments without incurring any considerable risk, such consignments being generally received and disposed of a short time after the transmission of the order by cable. In many instances the flour is sold in small parcels before the arrival of the ship, and the delivery of the different parcels is made direct to a great number of bakers and others on the same day on which the consignment is received, the duty on such small separate parcels being sometimes paid by the purchasers.

From the above it will be seen that, however desirable it is, for obvious reasons, to have a large supply of wheat in the island, it is difficult to attain this end by imposing restrictions on the importation of flour, for, besides raising the price of bread, which is the staple food of the majority of the population, such restrictions would not secure a supply of wheat unless the duty on flour be made almost prohibitive. It would therefore appear that the levying of duty on wheat by the weight (as it is now, by law, practised in Russia in the sale of that commodity) and the encouragement of local mills in setting up suitable plants for the manufacture of fine flour out of different kinds of wheat, are some of the steps most conducive to the end in view.

Spirits.—The duty collected on spirits fell from £30,972 in 1899 to £9,683 in 1900. The decrease is entirely due to forestalments of that commodity last year on the introduction in Council of the Ordinance raising the duty on spirits.

Wine.—In view of the high prices of the wine obtainable in Sicily, the importation of Sicilian wine has considerably decreased in the last two years. Such decrease has, however, been made good by the importation of Spanish, Greek and Turkish wines. In fact, the amount of duty derived under this head in 1900 is £2,523 9*s.* 8*d.* over that derived in 1899, and the importation of wine has again become normal, the requirements brought about by the ordinary increase of the population being met by a larger consumption of beer. Spanish, Greek and Turkish wines do not, however, quite suit the taste of the population, who have been accustomed to Sicilian wines, so that, should the price of Sicilian wines be reduced, in consequence of good crops in Northern Italy or from other causes, the importation of Greek and Turkish wines will probably decrease and that of Spanish wines practically cease, larger importations from Sicily being again resorted to.

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The following table shows the value of dutiable goods imported during the five years preceding 1900, and their average compared with the imports of that year :—

Year.	Total.	United Kingdom.	British Colonies.	H.M.'s Ships.	Foreign Countries.
	£	£	£	£	£
1895	13,099,978	174,350	324,916	236	12,600,476
1896	10,472,139	143,629	129,716	414	10,198,380
1897	10,895,639	150,473	92,429	358	10,652,379
1898	10,025,131	203,517	519,608	485	9,301,521
1899	6,668,961	297,830	408,685	2,255	5,960,191
Average of five years	10,232,369	189,960	295,071	749	9,742,589
1900	7,434,289	305,010	89,208	987	7,039,084
Below average ...	2,798,080	—	205,863	—	2,703,505
Above average ...	—	115,050	—	238	—

The above statement shows that, whilst the total imports for 1900 is below the average of the previous five years by £2,798,080, the imports from the United Kingdom increased by £115,050 over the same average, the decline being in the imports from foreign countries and British possessions.

Of the total imports in 1900, £1,026,829 is the value of goods actually brought into the Island, and £6,407,460 of cargoes which merely touched at this Port and were re-exported in the same bottoms, or transhipped. Again, £48,802 of the goods landed were re-exported, leaving a total of imports for local consumption of £978,027, of which £303,951 represent the value of goods from the United Kingdom.

With regard to "Free Goods," such as hardware, enamelware, household goods, hosiery, and clothing materials, enough is known to establish the fact that some foreign countries compete successfully with the United Kingdom. From an abstract from the "Annuaire d'Italie pour l'Exportation," lately published here by the local Chamber of Commerce, I gather that Italy alone had sent goods to Malta, in 1897, to the amount of

£240,385 exclusive of the value of oil, potatoes, and wine amounting to £127,603.

Foreign goods are generally inferior to British goods and this partly accounts for the difference in price. I understand, however, that some foreign goods such as electro-plate, chiefly imported from Germany, and matches, which come from Belgium and Germany, are not only cheaper but are considered as good as those imported from the United Kingdom, whilst glassware imported from France is much cheaper and is nearly as good as that of the United Kingdom. Cravats and felt hats are also at present being extensively imported from Italy. There is likewise reason to believe that even in the case of earthenware, which until quite lately was practically entirely imported from the United Kingdom, British manufacturers will soon be confronted with a keen competition on the part of Italian firms.

The principal reasons why foreign goods are gradually but steadily superseding British goods at Malta and other places are: (*a*) the activity displayed by foreign commission agents in making themselves acquainted with the requirements and tastes of the people of the country to which they are sent; their ability to speak several languages, which enables them to mix freely with the population; and the ingratiating manners by which they succeed in making numberless acquaintances and some friends. These foreign commission agents scarcely ever leave Malta without having obtained some new customers and without having secured a considerable number of orders, not only in the towns, but also in the remotest corners of the Island; (*b*) the pains taken by foreign manufacturers in supplying local requirements and in adapting the goods to the different tastes above referred to, not only by providing cheap goods for those with whom quality is not a point of much consideration, but also goods of the particular pattern and quality reported by their agents to be preferred by their old and new customers.

Subjoined is a list of the principal articles of lightage and fuel and of live stock, other than those paying duty, imported in 1900:—

	Tons
Coals from Cardiff	406,255
" " Newport	43,259
" " Liverpool	20,183
" " Newcastle	27,930
" " Port Albert	3,677
" " Norfolk, U.S., America	3,863
" " Newport News	4,493
Total	509,660

	Cases.
Petroleum from Italy	4,300
„ „ Russia	42,700
„ „ America	9,991
Total	56,991

	Gallons.
Petroleum in bulk from Batoum	1,847,845

	Salms.	Bushels.
Charcoal from Italy, Turkey, &c.	65,985	=527,880

	Pesate.	Cwts.
Firewood from Italy, Turkey, &c.	19,417	= 91,017

	No.
Pigs from Prevesa, Astakos, &c.	7,450

	No.
Poultry from Odessa	15,800
„ „ Turkey	12,080
„ „ Italy	3,655
„ „ Tripoli...	2,098
„ „ Tunis	310
Total	33,943

Tunny fish from Sicily number 696.

EXPORTS.

The exports for 1900, exclusive of local produce, amounted to £6,471,567, of which £48,802 represents the value of goods actually landed and re-exported, and £6,422,765 the value of goods in transit on the same bottoms.

The total exports for the last five years are as follows :—

Year.	Total.	United Kingdom.	British Possessions.	H.M.'s Ships.	Foreign Countries.
	£	£	£	£	£
1896...	11,886,149	2,359,890	2,899,046	3,181	6,624,032
1897...	10,088,760	1,784,834	1,891,114	9,103	6,403,709
1898...	9,379,140	2,088,589	1,408,986	13,013	5,868,552
1899...	5,449,501	919,202	617,563	9,924	3,902,812
1900...	6,471,567	1,100,924	814,929	7,716	4,547,998

The following Comparative Statement of the export of dutiable goods for the years 1899 and 1900 shows the value of the articles exported to the United Kingdom during the year under review :—

Articles.	Value of Exports, 1899.	Value of Exports, 1900.	Increase.	Decrease.	Value of Exports to U.K. in 1900.
	£	£	£	£	£
Beer	9,610	2,194	—	7,416	9
Bullocks ...	12	15	3	—	—
Beef and Mutton	44	119	75	—	—
Horses	804	704	—	100	53
Mules	110	910	800	—	—
Wheat	3,584,093	4,211,545	627,452	—	886,975
Indian Corn ...	558,147	320,202	—	237,945	39,126
Barley	927,529	1,229,487	301,958	—	372,577
Saggina ...	112	65	—	47	—
Inferior Grain...	335,590	645,845	310,255	—	—
Manufactured Grain	9,241	17,909	8,668	—	140
Oil (olive) ...	1,338	10,941	9,603	—	15
Oil (cotton) ...	942	1,716	774	—	41
Potatoes ...	2,429	2,692	263	—	644
Pulse	5,341	20,627	15,286	—	17,763
Seeds	3,657	4	—	3,653	—
Spirits	6,942	4,379	—	2,563	55
Vinegar... ...	3	3	—	—	—
Wine	3,557	2,210	—	1,347	102

As exports from Malta are not declared at the Custom House, the following return of the exports of local produce has been drawn up from information favoured by the shipping agents at this port, and it includes only such exports as have been shipped in steam vessels, no reliable information being obtainable of the quantities exported in other craft.

MALTA, 1900.

RETURN OF AGRICULTURAL AND OTHER ARTICLES OF LOCAL PRODUCE EXPORTED IN 1900.

Potatoes—Cantars 55,974=Cwts. 87,459, against 27,623 Cwts. in 1899.

Onions—Crs. 11,872=Cwts. 18,500, against 5,495 Cwts. in 1899,

Cumin Seed—Crs. 3,703=5,786 Cwts. „ 1,892 „ „

Vegetables—Crs. 5,233=8,177 „ „ 7,897 „ „

Oranges—22,035 Doz., against 33,758 Doz. in 1899.

Cotton goods of local manufacture—Maltese Canes 355,372, against 254,755 in 1899, and 379,924 in 1898.

Goats—No. 112, against 259 in 1899.

Stones—63,071 Slabs, 1,897 Blocks, and 100 Tons, against 33,710 Slabs, 1,164 Tons, and 40 packages of stone work.

SHIPPING.

The returns for the year show a considerable increase in the shipping operations as compared with 1899. A larger number of vessels called at this port during the year. In part the increase may be attributed to colliers freighted by H.M.'s Government in connection with the importation of a large stock of reserve coal by the Admiralty, and to vessels that called to take in bunker coal at the prices contracted before the late rise in the price of coal. Making, however, due allowance for the above it would appear that owners of ships are becoming convinced that the facilities afforded at this British port are at least as great as those obtainable at other foreign ports of the Mediterranean, and that they are finding it to be more and more to their interest to send their ships to Malta.

The following statement shows the comparison of the total shipping entered and cleared between 1899 and 1900 :—

Year.	Steamers Entered.		Steamers Cleared.		Sailing Vessels Entered.		Sailing Vessels Cleared.		Totals	
	No.	Tonnage.	No	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.
1899	2,392	3,235,366	2,404	3,227,294	1,168	62,346	1,176	65,648	7,140	6,590,654
1900	2,549	3,473,576	2,546	3,468,096	1,265	64,512	1,255	63,446	7,615	7,069,630
Increase in 1900 ...	157	238,210	142	240,802	97	2,166	79	—	475	478,976
Decrease in 1900 ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2,202	—	—

The following table shows the number, tonnage and the nationality of all the vessels entered and cleared in 1900 as compared with 1899 :—

Sailing Vessels.

Nationality.	1899.				1900.			
	Entered.		Cleared.		Entered.		Cleared.	
	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.
British...	2	534	2	534	1	96	1	96
Colonial (Malta)	106	10,010	119	12,119	116	10,578	109	10,165
Austrian	1	76	1	76	—	—	—	—
Greek	110	9,874	112	9,688	130	13,129	134	13,327
Italian	837	33,032	832	34,561	927	33,014	920	32,691
Spanish	15	1,153	16	1,246	3	331	1	92
Turkish	70	6,656	66	6,363	63	5,842	65	5,553
Tunisian	27	1,011	28	1,061	22	835	22	835

Montenegrin	—	—	—	—	2	376	2	376
Norwegian	—	—	—	—	1	311	1	311
Total Sailing Vessels ...	1,168	62,346	1,176	65,648	1,265	64,512	1,255	63,446

Steamers.

Nationality.	1899.				1900.			
	Entered.		Cleared.		Entered.		Cleared.	
	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.
British	1,359	2,272,821	1,372	2,264,724	1,446	2,400,098	1,446	2,389,579
Colonial (Malta)	47	24,418	47	24,418	28	12,862	27	11,690
Austrian	443	278,109	441	277,595	454	299,054	455	308,059
Belgian	9	13,098	9	13,098	32	44,908	32	44,908
Danish...	9	10,785	9	10,785	12	12,340	12	12,340
French	57	46,619	57	46,619	55	47,701	55	47,701

Steamers—*cont.*

Nationality.	1899.				1900.			
	Entered.		Cleared.		Entered.		Cleared.	
	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.
German	242	339,813	242	339,813	210	306,878	209	306,171
Greek	15	14,351	15	14,351	33	43,826	33	43,826
Dutch	23	23,873	23	23,873	32	26,125	32	26,125
Italian	123	113,639	123	113,639	159	158,643	158	158,397
Norwegian	15	18,758	15	18,758	29	38,585	29	38,585
Russian	11	12,409	11	12,409	13	10,177	13	10,177
Spanish	22	43,630	22	43,630	36	62,552	35	60,711
Swedish	16	21,776	17	22,315	9	9,773	9	9,773
Turkish	—	—	—	—	1	54	1	54
Japanese	1	1,267	1	1,267	—	—	—	—
Total Steamers	2,392	3,235,366	2,404	3,227,294	2,549	3,473,576	2,546	3,468,096

The above figures show that the greater number of sailing vessels were Italian and Greek, after which come the British, which are all but one owned at this Port. On the other hand, the average tonnage of the British vessels exceeds by 45 tons that of foreign nations.

Again, of the total number of steamers 1,474 were British, with a tonnage of 2,412,960, against 1,075 of all other nationality with a tonnage of 1,060,616, or an average of 1,637 tons for each British steamer, against 986 tons for each foreign steamer.

The total number of ships and tonnage entered and cleared at this Port during the last five years were as follows :—

Year.	Entered.		Cleared.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
1896	3,786	3,293,200	3,767	3,291,148
1897	4,111	3,637,426	4,098	3,607,042
1898	3,890	3,563,728	3,874	3,581,993
1899	3,560	3,297,712	3,580	3,292,942
1900	3,814	3,538,088	3,801	3,531,542

LEGISLATION.

During the year 19 Ordinances were passed, of which 16 were assented to. Of these the most important were No. II., No. III., No. IV., No. V., No. VI., No. IX., No., XIII., No. XIV., and No. XVI.

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Ordinance No. II. exempts owners of pleasure yachts registered in Malta from the obligation of shipping a master or mate on board.

The provisions of this Ordinance are, for all practical purposes, to the same effect as those of Section 262 of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1894; but a pleasure yacht may only clear from Malta without a captain or mate if the owner thereof obtains a special licence from the superintendent of ports enabling him to take command of the same, which licence is granted if the owner be known to be competent and of full age. The chief reasons for this exception are (1) to prevent youths, without any experience of navigation, taking some of the small craft in Malta for a trip to Sicily or Tunis, thus placing their own life and that of the crew in danger; and (2) because it would otherwise be difficult to prevent a certain number of craft, apparently intended for pleasure trips, from being run between Malta and the neighbouring coasts for the purpose of smuggling.

Ordinance No. III., "To prevent the sale of adulterated cereals and flour and to amend Article 116 of the Police Laws," is chiefly intended for sanitary purposes, but the first six provisions thereof were inserted to protect the public against the fraudulent sale of impure flour as genuine, and at the price of pure flour. These provisions are to the effect (1) that the importer of flour shall declare whether it contains any mixture, above 5 per cent. of any substance other than the produce of pure wheat; or shall produce a certificate by the shipper of the flour containing a similar declaration; (2) that if the importer does not make the said declaration, or if from the certificate it results that the flour contains more than 5 per cent. of any substance other than the produce of pure wheat, the Collector of Customs shall cause the flour to be examined by the analytical chemist; (3) that when, from the certificate of the shipper or from the report of the analytical chemist, it results that the imported flour contains a mixture above 5 per cent., the Collector of Customs, before delivering the goods to the importer, shall close and seal the bags, or other receptacles containing the merchandise; and (4) that whenever from the report of the analytical chemist it results that the imported flour contains a mixture of substances injurious to health, the Collector of Customs, before effecting the delivery, shall give notice thereof to the police in order that the necessary proceedings be taken, unless the importer prefers to re-export the said flour.

The other provisions of the Ordinance are intended for sanitary purposes; they give power to the authorities to prevent the sale of bread made with flour of which the sale is prohibited, or of ill-leavened bread, &c., and contain other measures very similar to those existing in the English laws on the subject.

Ordinance No. IV. amends Article 13 of the Aliens' Laws according to which the Court was bound to condemn offenders

against the provisions of Articles 5 and 7 of that Ordinance to a fine from £1 to £20 and to imprisonment for a period not exceeding three months. It is now left to the Court to apply either a fine or the punishment of imprisonment.

Ordinance No. V. The object of this Act is to make the provisions of the Army Act, 1881, and of any present or future Act of the Imperial Parliament—in so far as they are, or shall in future time be, applicable to the Militia raised in the United Kingdom, or in any county thereof—also applicable: (a) to the officers of the Royal Malta Regiment of Militia at all times, and (b) to non-commissioned officers and men thereof, when embodied, or while engaged in any Militia exercise or drill with the regiment or any portion thereof, or while wearing the clothing and accoutrements of the corps, or when engaged, whether in uniform or not, in any matter connected with the pay, the discipline, or the routine of the corps, or at any time, and under any circumstances, when the Regulations mentioned in Article 2 may direct.

Ordinance No. VI. is intituled: "To provide a Colonial allowance of £460 a year for officers from Maltese corps transferred to Imperial military service, chargeable on the revenue of the Government of Malta for ten years."

This special Appropriation Ordinance was prompted by the offer of the Imperial Government to grant six commissions in the Imperial Forces to officers in local regiments. This offer was welcomed with deep feelings of gratitude on the part of the whole Maltese community, and it was felt necessary in order to make the choice of the very best, the most able and most suitable candidates from a military point of view, to overcome the financial difficulties involved on account of the inadequacy of the military pay. It was, therefore, with the co-operation of the Elected Members of the Council that His Excellency the Governor proposed a Colonial allowance of £80 a year to each of four militia officers transferred to the Royal Infantry Regiments, and of £70 a year to each of the two Royal Malta Artillery officers. The scheme was based upon the understanding that when a subaltern is promoted to a captaincy it becomes possible for him to live on his pay, and the necessity for a Colonial allowance disappears.

Ordinance No. IX., intituled, "To amend the Police Laws," amends certain provisions of Chapter II. of that Act, concerning vehicles and the vehicular traffic. The amendments enacted by the Ordinance had been suggested by the experience which those who had to apply the provisions of Chapter II. of the Police Laws had acquired, of the insufficiency and other defects of those provisions.

Ordinance No. XIII. is to the effect that no one shall exercise the trade of a shoeblack without a license from the police, and

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that the head of the Government shall have power to make regulations relative to shoeblacks. The Ordinance has the useful purpose of subjecting to the control of the police boys, professing to be shoeblacks, who caused trouble by idling together in the streets to the detriment of public order and morality.

Ordinance No. XIV. is the first of a series of enactments considered absolutely necessary for a thorough revision and consolidation of the sanitary laws so as to bring them to a level with those of other countries in which the requirements of public health are properly looked after. The object of this Ordinance is to consolidate and amend the laws relating to the organization of the Public Health Department, to which the duty of the execution of all sanitary laws is entrusted.

The Ordinance provides for the constitution of a Council of Health to advise on matters affecting hygiene and the public health in these islands; to suggest such measures, to propose and make such enquiries and scientific investigations, as the council may deem useful for the purpose of the administration of public health; and to give advice on all regulations to be issued by the Government concerning hygiene and public health; on the measures to be adopted with a view to preventing the introduction or the spread of infectious diseases in man, in animals and in agricultural produce; to advise on works of public utility as regard hygiene, on the construction, extension and repair of the drainage works and the works for water supply, and on other matters indicated in the Ordinance.

It also provides for the constitution of a Public Health Department composed of the following officers, to be styled Sanitary Officers, namely: A Superintendent of Public Health; two Sanitary Medical Officers for Malta and one for Gozo; one Sanitary Engineer for Malta, and another for Gozo; one Quarantine Medical Officer; one Veterinary Surgeon; one Inspector of Markets; two, or more, Analytical Chemists; one Sanitary Inspector for Malta and another for Gozo; and the Government District Medical Officers who are the executive officers, for sanitary matters, within their respective districts.

The principal duties of each officer are indicated in detail in the Ordinance so as to secure the division of work which is indispensably required for the good working of the Department.

The Council of Health is composed: (1) of the Chief Secretary to Government, the Crown Advocate, the Collector of Customs and Superintendent of Ports, the Superintendent of Public Works, the Superintendent of Public Health, the Senior Military Medical Officer, the Senior Naval Medical Officer, the

Senior Sanitary Medical Officer, the Professor of Medicine, the Professor of Hygiene, an engineer versed in sanitary engineering, the Veterinary Surgeon and an apothecary; (2) two practising physicians particularly conversant with public hygiene; (3) the President of the Chamber of Commerce; and (4) three other members to be appointed by the Head of the Government.

In admitting on the Board a certain number of members not in Government employ, a principle has been followed which obtains in England in the constitution of the Local Sanitary Districts and Local Board of Health; and the presence of the President of the Chamber of Commerce was considered necessary in view of the interest of the trading community in sanitary measures affecting either merchant vessels, merchandize, or the trade in general.

The Ordinance gives power to the Head of the Government to divide the island of Malta into two sanitary districts, Gozo forming a third district, each being placed under the charge of one of the three medical officers of health who are responsible for the sanitation of the district.

The duties and powers of the quarantine medical officers have been detailed in the Ordinance, and are such as to enable those officers to enforce quarantine regulations framed on the basis of the Venice Conference in anticipation of the adoption of those principles by the Council of Health.

The office of analytical chemist will, under the Ordinance, form a separate branch of the Public Health Department, with a laboratory which will be under the technical control of the senior Government analytical chemist. The service of analytical chemist is becoming daily more important for the preservation of public health, and such duties can only be undertaken, at present, by persons employed by the Government. As there is no probability that in future there will ever be sufficient inducement for persons to obtain a licence to act as analytical chemists, in order to exercise private practice of the profession, a provision has been inserted in the Ordinance to the effect that whenever, by any provision of the law, or by order of a court of law, it becomes necessary that an article be analysed by an analytical chemist, the Government analytical chemists shall not be disqualified from serving as experts on account of any analysis they may have undertaken (as employees of the Public Health Department) of samples of the article to which the controversy refers.

The Medical Board has the duty of ascertaining the fitness of candidates to practice any of the sanitary professions; to regulate the fees that may be lawfully claimed by a member of any of the said professions; and to carry out such duties as shall be assigned to the Board by any law or by regulations made by the Head of the Government by virtue of the powers vested in him by law.

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Ordinance No. XVI., as amended by Order of Her Majesty, is intituled, "To amend and consolidate the laws relating to the Post Office and to the Postal Service."

When, in 1884, the Malta Post Office ceased to be under the Imperial Government, an Ordinance was passed "To establish a Post Office." That Ordinance was amended on several occasions, and, finally, by Ordinance No. XII. of 1892, by which all the previous Legislative Acts were repealed. Still the Postal Ordinance remained incomplete, and, after the Washington Postal Convention, further legislation became necessary in order that the Malta Post Office might be authorised to undertake the insurance of letters, postal packets and parcels.

The present Ordinance is almost similar to the laws relating to the postal service in England. It embodies all the provisions of the "Foreign and Colonial Post Warrant, 1898, dated 22nd December, 1898," of the "Treasury Warrant, dated 27th December, 1898, as to the Foreign and Colonial Post, except Parcels," and of the "Foreign and Colonial Parcel Post Warrant, dated 27th December, 1898."

The Ordinance contains some preliminary provisions, in which the definition of the principal words used in the Ordinance are given, three titles, and some General Provisions.

The first title, or part, refers to "the administration of the Post Office." It is sub-divided into eight chapters, containing the necessary provisions as regards, (1) "the privileges and duties of the Post Office," (2) "the conditions under which postal packets are received at, and delivered by the Post Office"; (4) "the limits of the liability of the Post Office for registered postal packets and for insured letters and insured parcels," (5) some matters common to the preceding chapters, (6) "Post Office Money Orders and Postal Orders," and (7) "the liability of the Government for the payment of their shares in the transit rates."

The second title contains only one article by which power is given to the head of the Government to establish a post office savings bank and to make regulations for the management and administration thereof.

The third title contains the provisions concerning offences against the Post Office Law.

Under "General Provisions" it is enacted that the conditions for the exchange of postal packets with foreign countries and other international postal services shall be regulated by the Postal Convention in force, notwithstanding any provision of the Ordinance, and that, in default of both, the Head of the Government shall provide by means of regulations, to be published by a notice in the Government "Gazette."

Four schedules are annexed to the Ordinance, the second of which shows the places, other than the United Kingdom, to which a British letter may be transmitted under the Penny Postage Union; the fourth schedule sets out the compensation fees to be paid on insured letters and insured parcels in case of loss.

EDUCATION.

The educational institutions in Malta, maintained out of public funds are, an University, a Lyceum, two Secondary schools, 111 Elementary day schools, 34 Elementary night schools, and one Technical and Manual school. There are 129 other private educational institutions which (while including eight where students receive a good secondary education, and where boys are prepared for admission to the lyceum) are for the most part private schools in which instruction is not of a very advanced character. These schools are attended by 4,181 pupils, of whom 2,134 are males and 2,047 females.

The authorities of the University, subject to powers reserved to the head of the Government, are the Director of Education, the General Council, and the Special Councils of the Faculties.

The University consists of four faculties, viz., of literature and science, the course of which extends over three years; of medicine and surgery, of law, and of theology, the course of each of which extends over four years.

The University was attended in 1900 by 77 students, 11 less than in the previous year, viz., in the faculty of literature and science, 19; in the faculty of medicine, 15; in the faculty of law, 21 (composed of 7 notaries, 6 legal procurators, and 8 students aspiring to the degree of LL.D.); and in the faculty of theolgy, 22, of whom one was a regular student preparing for the degree of D.D.

In addition to the above a special course of lectures was delivered in 1900 on veterinary science. It was attended by five medical practitioners, three of whom obtained a certificate at an examination which was held at the end of the course. These lectures have, however, been discontinued for financial reasons.

A matriculation examination for admission to the course of literature and science used to be held every three years, but for the convenience of candidates it is now held yearly. In the matriculation examinations, held in 1899 and 1900, 21 and 43 candidates, respectively, were successful.

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The Lyceum is an intermediate school. The instruction given in it is of two grades, a higher grade, and, preparatory to this, a lower grade. The higher is again divided into two courses, viz., the classical, which is preparatory to the faculty of literature and science, and the modern, preparatory for admission to the civil service, the army, the navy, a commercial career, teaching, mechanical engineering, civil engineering, and architecture, and navigation.

In the school of mechanical engineering young men receive instruction to enable them to qualify for a certificate of competency to serve as engineers of the 1st and 2nd class under the Merchant Shipping Act, 1894.

These various classes were attended altogether by 434 students, of whom 100 attended for instruction in voluntary subjects only.

In the annual examinations the percentage of passes obtained (with from 35 to 59 per cent. of the allotted marks) was 35; the percentage of passes obtained with at least 60 per cent. of the allotted marks was 51; on the whole 81 per cent. of passes were secured.

An examination for admission to the Lyceum is held yearly. The number of candidates admitted to the Lyceum in 1900 was 85 against 49 in the previous year; of the successful candidates 27 had been scholars in elementary schools. The Lyceum course covers a period of six years.

The two secondary schools are, one in Valletta for young ladies, to which pupils are admitted at any time, and in which the full course is six years, and the other at Victoria, Gozo, for boys, in which the course is four years, and to which students are admitted every two years by examination. The young ladies' school was attended by 120 pupils, or 24 more than in 1899; the secondary school at Gozo was attended by 23 boys, being six less than in 1899.

The subjects taught in the Lyceum and in the secondary schools are those taught in similar schools in England and on the Continent.

In the technical and manual school young apprentices are taught drawing, modelling in clay, plaster-casting, stucco-work, cabinet-making, wood and stone carving. The administration of this school was in 1898 transferred, as an experiment, to the Society of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce.

Two Lyceum students entered for the Oxford Local Examinations, Senior Division, both passed, and they passed with distinction in Italian. One passed in the third class with honours, and was first in order of merit among local candidates. He was awarded the Government prize of £12.

Two girls of the young ladies' secondary school were candidates in the junior division, both failed; four were candidates in the preliminary examination, of whom two passed.

Since the promulgation of the amended Statute in 1898, certain changes have been effected, viz. :—

The students of the faculty of literature and science who formed one section are now classified into three—(*a*) an academical course of literature; (*b*) an academical course of science; and (*c*) a preparatory course for admission to the faculties of medicine, law, and theology. History is now a subject in the university curriculum of the academical course of literature.

Oral examinations were introduced into the matriculation and Lyceum annual examinations, and the second supplementary or third examination in the matriculation and other university examinations was abolished. Examinations are held in two sessions, with an interval of two months between the first and that of the second session.

Oral examinations discourage cramming and render a pass exceedingly difficult unless the examinee has a fair knowledge of the subject.

The abolition of the third examination ensures more careful preparation by matriculation candidates and more regular attendance, and closer attention to study on the part of university students.

General history has been made an obligatory subject in the first and second years of the academical course of literature and science. History was formerly taught in the Lyceum, not as a separate subject, but with the Latin, English, Italian, and French languages; since 1899 it has been taught as a distinct subject, and comprises the history of England, of Malta, of Rome, and of Greece.

A "Conversation" lesson has also been added in the other classes in the Lyceum.

The expenditure incurred by the Government in 1900 for the maintenance of the above establishments, including the Education Office, was £8,547 6*s.* 9*d.*

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS.

In the year 1900 elementary education was imparted in 145 schools at a total cost of £14,988 4*s.* 10*d.*, of which £12,189 3*s.* 2*d.* was for "Personal Emoluments," and £2,799 1*s.* 8*d.*, for "Other Charges," exclusive of minor works and other expenses in connection with the building and up-keep of school premises.

MALTA, 1900.

The above schools were distributed as follows :—

	Malta.	Gozo	Total
Day Schools—			
Boys	29	9	38
Girls	31	9	40
Infant	4	2	6
„ (Mixed)	14	0	14
Drawing (Boys)	5	0	5
„ (Girls)	4	0	4
Woodcarving and modelling	3	0	3
Sunday (Secular instruction)	1	0	1
Total day schools ...	91	20	111
Night Schools—			
Elementary (Boys)	25	5	30
Drawing (Boys)	4	0	4
Total night schools ...	29	5	34
Grand Total	120	25	145

The number on the rolls of the day schools at the beginning of the scholastic year was 13,619, and the average annual attendance 10,470, or a percentage of 80·6 on the average annual enrolment of 12,992. The number on the rolls of the night schools was 2,050, the average annual enrolment 1,587, and 1,014 attended on an average, giving a percentage of 63·8 on night attendance.

Taken together, the aggregate number of pupils on the rolls was 15,669, with an average annual enrolment of 14,579, and an average attendance of 11,484 in both day and night schools, which is considered satisfactory, taking in consideration the fact that, owing to serious outbreaks of whooping-cough in various centres of the island several schools had to be kept closed for periods ranging from one to two months.

4,567 children were admitted during the year, and 4,447 left the schools usually at ages under ten. This early withdrawal of the children is greatly to be deplored, it being one of the chief factors that render elementary education so peculiarly difficult in these islands ; it is hoped, therefore, that something may be done to remedy the evil by legislation.

The number of children seeking admission in 1900 was 5,700 against 6,607 in the previous year. In view, however, of the extension of school premises now completed, accommodation is now provided for about 2,000 more pupils.

Calculated on the average annual attendance, the cost per pupil was £1 6*s*. 1*d*. against 19*s*. 4*d*. in 1899, the difference being due to increased rent of school premises (£843 14*s*. 11*d*), supply of new apparatus and other necessaries for the schools, and augmentation in the numbers and salaries of the teaching staff.

To test the efficiency of the schools numerous surprise visits and inspections were made in the course of the year, besides the usual annual examinations, which were carried out by the Inspector with the co-operation of the three Assistant Inspectors.

Under the present system of examination, every pupil is examined individually in each and every subject of the curriculum of instruction. 10,361 pupils were duly examined between March and the middle of August, every precaution having been taken to render such examinations as searching and thorough as possible, to guard against cramming, from the effects of which our schools were known to have been suffering for a long time.

The results of these examinations were eminently satisfactory, and have shown that considerable progress was made in the schools under the new system of instruction. Out of the 10,361 pupils examined in all the standards, 8,786 were considered to have satisfied the requirements of the examination carried out under the new programmes, which are more comprehensive than those lately in force. The percentage of passes was, therefore, 87·4, or 1·5 per cent. higher than that of the previous year, while the average percentage of marks obtained by the pupils in the various standards was 76·8 against 71·6 in the previous scholastic year.

The efficiency of the schools during the period under review is also shown by the creditable results obtained by the candidates from the Elementary Schools at other examinations, mainly of a competitive character, totally unconnected with the Department. It is a significant fact that of the number of boys from the Elementary Schools who presented themselves for admission into the Lyceum, 90 per cent. succeeded in passing that competitive examination, the percentage of passes secured by the pupils from all the private schools having been 54. The result is the more creditable to the Elementary Schools because many of the pupils so admitted in the Lyceum had acquitted themselves so well that they were placed in the fifth instead of the sixth class, thereby saving a whole year in their course of studies.

A considerable number of pupils have also obtained ready admission to the Gozo Seminary, the Archiepiscopal Seminary, and to the Gozo Secondary School; others were employed as apprentices in the Royal Dockyard, and several were enabled to secure places as monitors and monitresses on the teaching staff of the Elementary Schools.

MALTA, 1900.

The above satisfactory state of progress is due in a great measure to the circumstance that the application of the new scheme of instruction, which now obtains in the Government Elementary Schools, had become general. That scheme, sanctioned in 1898, and partially adopted in 1899, formed the exclusive basis of instruction during the scholastic period under consideration. There is every reason to believe that the new programme influenced the standard of instruction in a very marked degree, and contributed efficiently to bring about this satisfactory state of the schools.

The prospects of the whole teaching staff have been materially improved by the new classification and increased rate of pay; it is, therefore, confidently hoped that the inflow of junior candidates for assistant teacherships from the Lyceum will steadily continue, and that the better inducements now offered will secure the desired improvement in the personnel of the staff of assistant teachers and eventually of the head teachers themselves.

Outgoing members of the teaching staff, either by superannuation or death, are now being replaced by Maltese teachers trained in England who have hitherto given satisfaction. These young men and young ladies obtain scholarships after a competitive examination among the assistant teachers who have completed a preparatory course in the Valletta Training School where, besides the ordinary training, they receive special instruction in such subjects as are calculated to be necessary for them to join the Roman Catholic Training Colleges at Hammersmith and at Wandsworth.

GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

HOSPITALS, ASYLUMS, AND POOR HOUSES.

The charitable institutions in Malta consist in three hospitals for acute diseases, a convalescent hospital, which is used also as an ordinary hospital, a lunatic asylum, an orphan asylum, a poor house which includes a division for incurables, a Magdalen asylum and a Foundling hospital, and an asylum for lepers, which was first occupied at the beginning of 1900.

The charities in Gozo are a hospital for ordinary diseases, one for infectious diseases and an asylum for the aged and infirm.

The total number of persons who received hospital treatment, or were maintained in the asylums, in the course of the year, was 5,740 in Malta and 668 in Gozo. 81,399 cases of disease or injury were attended to in Malta by the Government medical officers at the dispensaries or at the patients' dwellings, and 21,286 in Gozo. 4,443 vaccinations were performed by the same officers in all the districts of Malta and Gozo; 2,608 persons were in the receipt of monthly alms, or were granted immediate

assistance in urgent cases of distress; monthly subsidies were granted in 111 cases for nursing foundlings and other infants, and 912 burials were undertaken at Government expense in Malta and Gozo.

The following are the principal statistics relative to hospitals, asylums and poor houses in 1900.

Hospitals.

—	In the Hospital on 1st January.	Admitted during the Year.	Daily Average.	Patients Discharged.	No. of Deaths.
Central Hospital	155	2,338	159	2,086	263
Seamen's Hospital	4	70	5	64	5
Santo Spirito Hospital ...	74	456	71	422	42
Manoel Hospital	2	124	2	90	21
Gozo Hospital	46	405	33	346	74
Do. for Contagious Diseases.	—	7	2	5	2
Totals	281	3,400	272	3,013	407

Asylums.

—	Inmates remaining on 31st December, 1899.	Admitted during 1900.	Daily Average.	Discharged.	No. of Deaths.
Asylum for the Aged and Incurables, viz.:—					
1. Aged and Infirm ...	708	241	696	27	198
2. Incurables	195	38	182	14	30
3. Lepers	28	67	58	6	10
Lunatic Asylum	673	153	678	83	45
Orphan Asylum	89	14	94	6	97
Ospizio-Gozo	148	43	139	6	39
Totals	1,841	356	1,847	142	419

MALTA, 1900.

The total cost of the institutions and services mentioned above was, in 1900, £52,898 1*s.* 6*d.*, or more than one-seventh of the total expenditure of the colony.

The above amount is apportioned as follows:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
All expenses in connection with the maintenance of hospitals, asylums, and dispensaries	49,408	8	3
Outdoor relief in alms	3,016	13	0
Nursing of children out of hospital ...	89	10	0
Burials of paupers	383	10	3
	£52,898	1	6

of which sum £1,715 3*s.* 10*d.* was laid out in works of a recurrent nature in all the institutions and £2,476 13*s.* 10*d.* expended on new works of an extraordinary description.

Among the latter those which deserve special mention for their importance were the installation of electric lighting in the Central Hospital, the completion of additional accommodation in the lunatic asylum, and the connection of the drainage of the leper asylum with the main intercepting sewer.

The male division of the leper hospital, which was completed about the end of 1899, was occupied in January, 1900. The number of persons admitted was 82; six were allowed to leave the island according to law, of whom two subsequently returned and were re-admitted; ten died and one was transferred to Corradino Prison: the number remaining in the institutions at the end of the year was 67.

In May and again in September last disturbances of a more or less serious nature broke out among the lepers who appeared determined to defy the law, which provides for their isolation. They caused damage to the building and furniture, and some of them succeeded in effecting their escape; but they were soon captured and taken back to the institution. Every possible endeavour was made from the outset with a view to render the seclusion of those unfortunate persons as comfortable as possible. But nothing short of their being set free would satisfy the lepers. I may here state that the relatives of the patients who were in some way dependent on the latter before these were admitted to the asylum have been allowed monthly subsidies out of a special apportionment authorised for the purpose.

Besides the institutions above enumerated, there are several private charitable institutions in Malta, of which, however, only three are in receipt of subsidies from the Government as industrial schools, or are allowed assistance in another form in view of their beneficial work on behalf of the poor of the island.

These institutions are (1) the "Casa di San Giuseppe," (2) the Convent of the Good Shepherd, and (3) the "Crêche," kept by the Ursoline Sisters. The object of the Casa di San Giuseppe is that of imparting training to boys who are deprived of the care of their parents, either on account of their being orphans or for other reasons. The boys, numbering 39 at the beginning of the year, are trained under competent masters in the arts of printing, carpentry, tailoring, and shoe-making, and receive elementary instruction in English, Italian, arithmetic, and drawing. This institution is allowed a subsidy by the Government of £120 per annum.

The Convent of the Good Shepherd, which is assisted by an annual grant of £60, consists of an orphanage where the number of girls was 52 on the 1st January, and of "penitents" whose number was 39 on the same date. Both the orphans and the "penitents," who are kept quite separate, are trained in household and industrial occupations of various descriptions; the orphans also receive elementary instruction in English, Italian, arithmetic, and writing.

The *Crêche* has for its object the taking charge of infants and little children during the day with a view to enable their mothers to work, when, for any reason, the latter happen to be the bread-winners of the family. The number of children in the *Crêche* varies between 30 and 40 per day.

SAVINGS BANKS.

	£	s.	d.
On the 31st December, 1899, the balance in the Savings Banks at Malta and Gozo to the credit of depositors was...	522,148	12	0¾
The amount deposited during the year and interest credited to depositors was	123,372	0	5
Total	£645,520	12	5¾
Deposits withdrawn during the year, including interest	109,949	1	8
Leaving a balance to the credit of depositors on the 31st December, 1900	535,571	10	9¾

MALTA, 1900.

The following table shows the transactions of the banks during the last five years :—

Year.	Number of depositors at 31st December.	Amount deposited.	Amount of withdrawals	Total amount to credit of depositors at 31st December.
		£	£	£
1896	6,402	115,545	97,184	498,536
1897	6,614	113,963	105,088	514,878
1898	6,657	99,113	102,606	519,038
1899	6,750	105,195	109,797	522,148
1900	6,960	115,157	109,492	535,571

The expenses of management and interest credited to depositors in 1900 amounted to £8,693 9*s.* 8*d.*, and the revenue from interest on invested funds, sale of passbooks, and unappropriated interest on deposits was £13,947 9*s.* 9*d.*, leaving a net profit of £5,254 0*s.* 1*d.* on the year's transactions.

JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

POLICE.

The number of offences reported to the police during 1900 was 6,279, against 5,650 in 1899; of these 908 were against the person, 45 against the order of families, 306 against property, and 5,020 other offences.

The number of persons summoned before the magistrates was 9,810, of whom 9,283 were summarily convicted and 527 acquitted.

The summary convictions were for the following offences :—

Offences against the person...	1,106
Offences against the good order of families	41
Injuries to property	374
Other offences	7,762
Total	9,283

250 persons were committed for trial, but only 156 were tried in His Majesty's Criminal Court during the year. Of these 41 were acquitted and 115 were convicted. Four convictions were recorded out of 7 cases for murder; the other convictions were 47 for offences against the person, 4 for malicious injuries to property, 26 for other offences against property, 1 for false evidence, and 33 for miscellaneous offences.

PRISONS.

In the year 1900, 3,109 prisoners were confined in the Corradino Prison, viz., 2,503 men, 437 boys, and 169 women. Of these, 13 were for debt, 384 for want of security, and 2,712 for penal imprisonment.

The daily average in the prison was 239.

The number of punishments inflicted was 151, viz.:—

Solitary confinement on bread and water ...	54
Dark cell on bread and water	1
Reduction from class	15
Admonished	81

The cost of all the prisons was £4,427 16*s.* 8*d.*, of which £478, expended in the maintenance of consular, military, and naval prisoners, were recouped, leaving a net expenditure of £3,949 16*s.* 8*d.*

The prisoners' earnings during the year amounted to £950, viz.:—

Value of labour performed:—

	£
(*a*) Outside the prisons (reclaiming waste land and produce of prison land)...	360
(*b*) Inside the prison (mat and broom making, tailoring, joiner's work, &c.)	590
Total	£950

The health of the prisoners during the year was very good; 4 were treated in the prison infirmary, 7 in the hospital, and there were no deaths.

VITAL STATISTICS.

POPULATION.

The population of these islands for 1900 is estimated at 183,679 (92,483 males and 91,196 females) or an increase of 2,031 (1,392 males and 639 females) on the estimated population of

1899. This estimate, which is calculated by the excess of births over deaths and of the arrivals over departures, shows that the population has increased since the census of 1891 by 11,167 males and 7,475 females, a total of 18,642.

The number of births registered during the year was 7,144. This is equal to a general birth-rate of 38 per 1,000 as compared with 37 in the previous year. The births were 3,806 males and 3,338 females, showing a preponderance of male over female births in the proportion of 114 males to every 100 females. The deaths recorded numbered 5,053 or 27·51 per 1,000 of the population, as compared with 25·91 in 1899, the increase being due to a larger number of deaths from debility and bronchitis amongst infants, and from cardiopathy amongst adults.

PUBLIC HEALTH.

The general state of the public health was good. The percentage of deaths under five years to total deaths is the lowest for the last six years. There were 398 deaths from zymotic diseases, or 7·7 per cent. to total deaths.

The death-rate in the urban zone (the fortified towns) which is drained, was, for the year, 24·87. The death-rate for the suburban undrained zone was 31·82; and that for the rural area was 27·06.

SANITATION.

Small-pox was imported into the island from Egypt in March and, in consequence of the first case not having been detected, the disease spread. Between the 25th March and the 9th July 32 cases occurred of which five proved fatal. Owing to the measures taken, the disease was kept well in check and eventually stamped out.

The destruction of rats as a precaution against the importation of plague was energetically proceeded with during the year. The drainage works outside the fortified towns were taken in hand and considerable progress was achieved.

CLIMATE.

The total rainfall for the year was 16·295 inches.

The following meteorological return for 1900 shows the prevailing temperature for each month of the year, the rainfall, and general direction of wind :—

Month.	Temperature.						Rainfall.		Winds.	
	Solar maximum.	Minimum of grass.	Shade maximum.	Shade minimum.	Range (mean daily).	Mean.	Amount in inches.	Degree of humidity.	General Direction.	Average Force.
	°	°	°	°	°	°				
January	114·4	39·8	67·7	41·2	9·5	55·3	5·509	78	W. & N.W.	0·95220
February ...	131·7	38·6	73·3	43·5	12·7	56·3	1·041	79	W. & W.N.W.	0·88445
March	133·7	36·1	71·7	41·8	12·6	55·0	1·035	73	S.E. & W.N.W.	0·58320
April	139·5	42·5	75·9	45·4	13·2	58·1	2·180	78	W. & N.E.	0·56180
May	138·5	49·8	80·4	55·4	13·2	64·9	0·549	78	W. & N.W.	0·61605
June	146·9	54·2	94·0	56·7	15·8	71·8	0·379	72	N. & N.W.	0·29645
July	149·0	53·0	92·1	59·1	17·4	78·6	—	70	N. & N.W.	0·31205
August	148·2	62·0	89·7	64·3	14·2	76·7	0·022	77	E. & N.W.	0·41405
September ...	148·4	59·0	92·4	63·8	14·6	74·8	0·100	77	E. & S.	0·23805
October	139·4	51·2	91·3	60·3	14·4	72·8	0·600	78	S. & S.W.	0·32805
November ...	131·1	49·0	77·4	51·7	12·1	63·7	3·640	83	S. & S.W.	0·53045
December ...	122·0	42·8	64·6	45·3	10·4	56·5	1·240	85	S. & W.	0·53045

MALTA, 1900.

POSTAL, TELEGRAPH AND TELEPHONE SERVICES.

Postal business shows a considerable decrease in 1900, the total number of articles posted and despatched being 5,719,137 as against 6,714,816 in the previous year.

A decrease is shown in the number of letters received and despatched and, as was the case in 1899, an increase in the number of post cards, the latter being probably due to the introduction in the market of private cards bearing views of places of interest in Malta, or illustrative of local customs. There is also a decrease under printed matter received and despatched, which may safely be attributed to the reduced circulation of newspapers in the vernacular.

The parcel post shows a satisfactory increase of over 9,000 parcels received and despatched during the year under review.

The revenue has yielded an increase of £622 10*s.* 9*d.* over the receipts of the previous year, which is extremely satisfactory when it is considered that the scheme of Imperial penny postage has reduced by 60 per cent., the rates formerly collected on the bulk of the correspondence posted within these Islands; and although the expenditure exceeded that of 1899 by £986 2*s.* 9*d.*, on deducting the total expenditure incurred from the total revenue derived by the department in 1900, a net profit is found to have been made of £489 17*s.* 3*d.*; this is in part traceable to large purchases of stamps by collectors.

The subjoined statements shows the revenue and cost of the Post Office in 1900 as compared with those of 1899, and the particulars of the Mail matter dealt with during those years :—

Revenue.			Expenditure.		
1899.	1900.	Increase.	1899.	1900.	Increase.
£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*
14,597 7 7	15,219 18 4	622 10 9	13,743 18 4	14,730 1 1	986 2 9

Articles.	Received and Despatched.		Increase (+) or Decrease (−) per cent.
	1899.	1900.	
Letters	4,138,030	3,441,237	− 16·83
Post Cards... ...	163,505	195,637	+ 19·63
Printed Matter ...	2,363,972	2,023,600	− 14·39
Parcels Post ...	49,309	58,663	+ 18·97
Totals ...	6,714,816	5,719,137	—

TELEGRAPHS.

There are no civil Government telegraphs.

TELEPHONES.

All Government departments, charitable institutions, and principal police stations in Malta are connected with the "Melita Telephone Exchange," which is a private enterprise. Communication with the island of Gozo is now carried on by telephone under the management of the military authorities.

MILITARY FORCES AND EXPENDITURE.

A.—REGULAR FORCES.

The total expenditure for the year 1900 on the Regular Forces stationed in this garrison, including the Royal Malta Artillery, was £615,613 16*s.*, which was defrayed from Imperial Funds.

The Colonial Defence Contribution paid by the local Government is £5,000 a year, as fixed by Letters Patent of 1887.

B.—MILITIA.

The militia, which was raised under Ordinance No. I. of the 4th January, 1889, is composed of two battalions of infantry and one company Royal Engineer Submarine Miners, Malta Division, forming an establishment of 29 officers and 1,090 warrant officers, non-commissioned officers and men in each infantry battalion, and 64 non-commissioned officers and men Royal Engineer Submarine Miners.

The militia is liable to embodiment and performs 72 drills during the year, out of which 12 days are employed in camp for musketry practice, which generally takes place in the month of June.

The actual amount of the expense incurred by the Imperial Government for the support of this force in 1900 was £9,433 5*s.* 10*d.* for militiamen and £4,654 16*s.* 11½*d.* for the permanent staff.

The Royal Malta Artillery, whose officers are now liable to serve abroad, consists of eight companies, two of which are bound to serve in any part of the British Empire. The Royal Malta Artillery receives the same pay as regular infantry regiments, and the militia which is organised under the British Voluntary System, receives pay for 72 drills, the rates of pay for officers and men being equal to those of the infantry regiments in the United Kingdom.

MALTA, 1900.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

RAILWAY.

Owing to the temporary disturbance of traffic which followed on the raising of the railway fares, there was a falling off in the passenger traffic as compared with 1899. Notwithstanding this, and the increase in the working expenses, largely due to the abnormal advances in the prices of coal and materials, the gross revenue in 1900 has shown an increase of £417 4*s.* 9½*d.* on the receipts in the previous year, leaving a net revenue of £320 9*s.* 7½*d.*, of which £301 0*s.* 8*d.* were expended in improvements and £19 8*s.* 11½*d.* passed to the credit of the railway.

The gross revenue, which amounted to £7,735 9*s.* 7½*d.* against £7,318 4*s.* 10*d.* in 1889, was disposed of as follows :—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Personal emoluments	2,650	8	2
Other charges	3,509	0	1
Interest on capital expended	1,094	12	3
Providing boiler tubes and ferrules ...	160	19	6
To reserve fund	301	0	8
Passed to the railway credit for net profit	19	8	11½
	£7,735	9	7½

The following summary compares the progress of the undertaking with the year in which it was first managed by the Government :—

—	1893.	1899.	1900.
1. Capital expended for the equipment of the railway.	£ 14,653 8 8	£ 36,044 3 7	£ 39,213 19 9
2. Gross revenue	4,839 9 1	7,318 4 10	7,735 9 7½
3. Working expenses ...	3,862 18 1	5,366 12 9	6,159 8 3
4. Profit on working ...	996 11 0	1,951 12 1	1,576 1 4½
5. Number of passengers...	626,912	1,110,006	1,081,471

The technical school attached to the Railway Department continues to do useful work, to the benefit both of the Government and the public ; the advantages derived from the institution

are generally appreciated. Many apprentices who received training at the railway workshop, and who, for some reason or other could not continue their course for marine engineers, have found ready employment at the Dockyard, where they have a wider field for improving their knowledge of the trade.

With a view to extend the scope of the above institution, the workshop is now being enlarged to afford accommodation for additional apprentices, but further votes will be necessary to enable the Government to meet the need for technical training.

PUBLIC WORKS.

The expenditure incurred by the Public Works Department in 1900 in Annually Recurrent Votes and on Extraordinary Public Works amounted to £76,677 10*s.* 3*d.*, as follows:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
From revenue—			
Recurrent works	47,230	17	1
Extraordinary works	15,878	14	1½
From general reserve fund	6,740	17	5
From immovable property account ...	6,817	1	7½
Total	£76,667	10	3

The following are the important works (exclusive of the service for lighting the streets, amounting to £10,907 6*s.* 8*d.*) on account of which the greater portion of the above expenditure was incurred, viz.:—

	£
1. Completing the leper asylum for men ...	807
2. Extending the lunatic asylum	785
3. Improving generally the buildings of the charitable institutions	1,803
4. Improving public buildings, palaces, offices, stores and gardens	5,048
5. Improving property yielding rent... ...	3,238
6. Re-modelling and constructing roads and streets, moles and up-keep of same ...	27,516
7. Towards improving drainage works ...	4,636
8. Water works	3,930
9. Electric lighting works	6,700
10. Extension of the railway	3,169
11. Towards the erection of new school at Cospicua	3,647
12. Effecting works in connection with urgent sanitary measures	934
Total	62,213

MALTA, 1900.

It will be seen from the above, that the expenditure on public works was kept within the narrowest limits, and that in 1900 no important work of extraordinary nature was carried out, although many are urgently required if Malta is to keep pace with the modern development of other civilized countries. Unless, however, additional revenue is authorized to provide funds for large works entailing extraordinary expenditure, the Government must put off indefinitely works such as the drainage of the villages, the extension of the water supply, the erection of a leper asylum for women, the building of a ward in the lunatic asylum for criminal lunatics (who, for want of space, are at present allowed to associate with other patients), the construction of a new hospital on modern sanitary principles to supersede the existing central hospital, which is both unsanitary and inadequate to the population of the Island, the construction of a breakwater at Gozo, the extension of electric light, the enlargement of schools to avoid overcrowding, and the building of new ones for accommodating about 5,000 children still awaiting admission; not to mention other works of public utility.

The financial condition of the Island is, on the other hand, prosperous, the taxation per head is low, and the country could well afford a small sacrifice on the part of each individual for the common weal; a considerable portion of the taxes (viz.: on drink) is paid by British, who are not domiciled in Malta, and are not represented in the Council of Government. Money raised by additional taxation for the above works would circulate in the island to the advantage of the working classes.

The general prosperity of the island appears to have been on the increase throughout 1900. The rise in the prices of commodities due to the war appears to have had in Malta the effect of improving generally the value of agricultural produce and the prosperity of the farmer.

The works undertaken by the naval authorities for the construction of two large docks in the French Creek increased the demand for labour, making it easy for any able-bodied man to find employment; this has taken place without unduly inflating the rates of wages.

The sanitary precautions that were taken to prevent plague appearing in Malta proved effective, and trade was not unduly hampered thereby.

With a view to facilitate the construction of a breakwater on the Monarch Shoal negotiations were successfully completed with the naval authorities for the sale of the foreshores about Bighi Bay and the neighbourhood of the site of the breakwater.

The most remarkable incident in 1900 was the enthusiastic outburst of loyalty on the part of all the Maltese on the occasion of the relief of Ladysmith. The earnestness of the feeling shown on that occasion has never been approached in Malta, and is an eloquent proof of the true sentiment that binds the Maltese population of Malta to the other loyal subjects of the Empire.

No less than nine Maltese officers have served the British army during the war in South Africa.

I have, &c.,

G. STRICKLAND,

Chief Secretary to Government.

LONDON:
PRINTED FOR HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE,
By DARLING & SON, Ltd., 34-40, Bacon Street, E.

1901.

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COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 358.

MALTA.

REPORT FOR 1901.

(For Report for 1900, *see* No. 329.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
August, 1902.

LONDON:
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BY DARLING & SON, LTD., 34-40, BACON STREET, E.

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1902.

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ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
336	British New Guinea	1899–1900
337	Leeward Islands	1900
338	Trinidad and Tobago	"
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6	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague.
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10	Virgin Islands	Condition during 1897.
11	Grenada	Agriculture in Carriacou.
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13	Cook Islands	Trade, 1899.
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15	Canada	Legal Status of British North American Indians.
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No. 358.

MALTA, 1901.

MALTA.

(For Report for 1900, *see* No. 329.)

GOVERNOR SIR F. W. GRENFELL to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

The Palace, Valletta,

30th May, 1902.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith, for your information, the Chief Secretary's Report on the Malta Blue Book for the year 1901.

I have, &c.,

F. GRENFELL,

Governor.

12039—875—6/1902 Wt 28616 D & S—5. A 2

MALTA, 1901.

Chief Secretary's Office,

Malta, 24th May, 1902.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to submit the following Report on the Malta Blue Book for the year 1901:—

GENERAL REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

A.—REVENUE.

The revenue collected in the year 1901 from the ordinary sources amounted to £385,698 4*s.* 8*d.*, to which are to be added £50 12*s.* 2*d.*, value of stores issued, and £114 14*s.* 4*d.*, adjustments from Surplus and Deficit Account, giving a total of £385,863 11*s.* 2*d.* The receipts exceeded the estimate by £26,558 11*s.* 2*d.*

The revenue collected in the last five years, exclusive of stores and adjustments, stands as follows:—

Year.	Revenue.
	£ *s.* *d.*
1897	323,787 5 10½
1898	332,488 18 1
1899	354,265 15 2¼
1900	356,758 6 10¾
1901	385,698 4 8

INCREASE OF REVENUE.

Almost all heads of income have this year earned an increased revenue, the more appreciable increases being under (*a*) Customs, (*b*) Licenses, Court Fines, &c., (*c*) Post Office, (*d*) Railway, (*e*) Water Service, and (*f*) Electric Lighting.

The increase under Customs (*a*) is due to the raising of the rate of duty on wines and spirits, under the Malta Revenue Order in Council, 1899, and to the new duties levied under the Malta Revenue and General Purposes Order in Council, 1901. The duties received under the former amounted to £30,763 6*s.* 6*d.*, and those under the latter Order in Council to £49,915 1*s.* 6*d.*

As to (*b*) Licenses, Fees, &c., the increase is due to a larger amount of fines collected by the Courts of Magistrates of Judicial Police.

The increase in the Post Office Revenue (*c*) is attributable to a larger sale of postage stamps and to more extensive business in the parcel post service.

The Railway (*d*), Water Service (*e*), and Electric Lighting (*f*) show this year an improved revenue, which is to be ascribed, as regards railway, to the Imtarfa extension, and to the raising of the fares; as to (*e*) Water Service, to additional services laid, and to a greater consumption of water, chiefly in War Department buildings and naval establishments; and as to (*f*) Electric Lighting, the increase is due to further installations laid, and to the raising of the price of unit. The financial progress during the last five years of enterprises which are administered by the Government on co-operative principles as municipal concerns, is shown in the following return:—

Year.	Railway.	Water Dues and Meter Rent.	Electric Light.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1897	6,705 2 11¾	7,573 4 10	9,122 14 2
1898	7,108 3 3	8,200 12 8	11,236 8 1
1899	7,318 4 10	8,880 15 6½	12,860 8 7
1900	7,735 9 7½	9,628 17 11	13,312 5 6
1901	8,226 19 1¾	10,245 16 4	15,024 16 10¾

Decrease in Revenue.

The only apparent decrease in revenue took place under Rents, Urban and Rural, and under Interest; and it resulted, as regards rents of rural tenements, from a comparison with a larger amount of arrears collected in the previous year, from reductions of rent of several tenements, and the transfer of lands to War Department. As to rents, urban, the diminution is chiefly due to the appropriation of several tenements by the Government for public utility and to transfers of property to the Imperial Government.

The decrease under Interest is mainly due to the increased rate of Income Tax deducted from other than Savings Bank investments.

General Reserve Fund.

The balance of this fund on 2nd January, 1901, was £28,772 16*s.* 11*d.*, and after appropriating therefrom a sum of £8,258 1*s.* 4½*d.* (expenditure incurred during 1901 for works

MALTA, 1901.

voted under Head 21A., "Special Expenditure chargeable to General Reserve Fund"), it was reduced to £20,514 5*s.* 6½*d.*, which is the balance on 2nd January, 1902. Against this balance there were at that date other liabilities for unexpended balances of votes required for immediate expenditure during the financial period between 1st January and 31st March, 1902, to the amount of £4,561 0*s.* 7½*d.*, leaving a balance available for further expenditure and for votes postponed of £15,953 4*s.* 11*d.*

EXPENDITURE.

The provisions allocated for expenditure by grants on the Civil List, Orders in Council, and Ordinances of Appropriation amounted this year, on an aggregate, to £421,763 0*s.* 4½*d.* Out of these provisions, the following was the expenditure actually incurred (exclusive of that out of Immovable Property Account under Ordinance V. of 1891, hereafter reported upon):—

As chargeable to Consolidated Revenue:—						
By Grants chargeable to the Civil List and Ordinances of Appropriation	£375,510	2	1½			
By Malta Revenue and General Purposes Order in Council, 1901	10,353	9	0½			
				£385,863	11	2
As chargeable to General Reserve Fund ...				8,258	1	4½
				£394,121	12	6½

The above expenditure is divided as follows, namely:—

Expenditure by grants chargeable to the Civil List, Ordinances of Appropriation, and Reserve Fund:—

Personal emoluments	£139,821	13	0			
Other charges (including Works Recurrent and Extraordinary)	243,946	10	6			
				£383,768	3	6
Under the Malta Revenue and General Purposes Order in Council, 1901:—						
Personal emoluments	£1,892	14	3			
Extraordinary works...	8,460	14	9½			
				10,353	9	0½
				£394,121	12	6½

The unexpended balances on 31st December, 1901, amounted, therefore, in the aggregate, to £27,641 7*s.* 10*d.*, resulting mainly from balances of votes for works not completed in 1901 and re-voted for 1902, as well as from savings on works and services during the year under review.

The total expenditure of the Government in each of the last five years, exclusive of a sum of £386 14*s.* 5*d.*, incurred out of the Immovable Property Account, was as follows:—

Year.	Chargeable to Consolidated Revenue.	Chargeable to General Reserve Fund.	Totals.
	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*
1897	320,710 6 3	3,963 1 7	324,673 7 10
1898	322,900 19 6½	16,181 19 8	339,082 19 2½
1899	341,182 3 10¾	10,172 7 11	351,354 11 9¾
1900	359,202 19 8½	6,740 17 5	365,943 17 1½
1901	385,863 11 2	8,258 1 4½	394,121 12 6½

Expenditure chargeable to the Immovable Property Account.

No new provision was appropriated by the Council of Government out of this fund in 1901.

The actual expenditure incurred as chargeable against the balance carried forward from grants voted out of this fund in previous years, was as follows:—

For the railway	£89 7 3
For new school at Ospicua	283 4 6
For expropriation of lands near Zabbar Gate and near Addolorata Cemetery	14 2 8
	£386 14 5

Increase in Expenditure.

The services on account of which a noticeable increased expenditure was incurred during the year under review were: (*a*) Chief Secretary's Department, (*b*) Receiver-General and Director of Contracts Department, (*c*) Customs, (*d*) Audit, (*e*) Railway Special Expenditure, (*f*) Railway Technical School,

(*g*) Police, (*h*) Public Health, (*i*) Prisons, (*j*) Charitable Institutions, (*k*) Elementary Schools, (*l*) Miscellaneous Services, (*m*) Superintendent of Public Works, (*n*) Water Works and Electric Lighting, and (*o*) Works Recurrent.

The increase of expenditure under the foregoing heads was brought about by the circumstances hereunder briefly stated:—

(*a*) Chief Secretary's Department, (*c*) Customs, (*d*) Audit, and (*m*) Superintendent of Public Works, by periodical increments of salaries and promotions of clerks; (*b*) Receiver-General, by larger expenditure in legal proceedings for the recovery of rents, or other financial objects; (*e*) Railway Special Expenditure, by improvements in the rolling stock and the reconstruction of a portion of the line with heavier rails; (*f*) Railway Technical School, by the enlargement of the school, the removal of the steam-hammer to another site of the Hamrun station, and an additional stock of tools and plant; (*g*) Police Department, chiefly by the temporary employment of men from the Royal Malta Artillery to do police duties, and the purchase of horses for the mounted police; (*h*) Public Health Department, by the employment of additional medical officers in connection with the new sanitary law; (*i*) Prisons, by a larger issue of articles of provisions, bedding, &c., owing to the increased number of prisoners; (*j*) Charitable Institutions, by the rise in price of many articles of provisions, the increased number of inmates in the asylums, and salaries of new situations in the Leper hospital; (*k*) Elementary Schools, by improvements in the salaries of the teaching staff and the increment of the inspector's salary; (*l*) Miscellaneous Services, chiefly by expenses in connection with the census, and drawbacks; (*n*) Water Works and Electric Lighting, by a larger supply of meters and greater consumption of coal; and, finally, as to (*o*) Recurrent Works, the increase is due to a greater number of works and improvements carried out during the year.

DECREASE IN EXPENDITURE

A decrease in the expenditure was obtained under (*a*) Interest, (*b*) Pensions, (*c*) Railway Department, (*d*) Legal Department, (*e*) Educational Department, and (*f*) Works Extraordinary.

The causes of these decreases may be summarized as follows:—(*a*) Interest, due chiefly to the Income Tax charged to the Savings Bank at the increased rate, and to several unclaimed charges; (*b*) Pensions, due to the death of several pensioners; (*c*) Railway Department, due to the diminished consumption of coals, coal dust having been converted into patent fuel; (*d*) Legal Departments, due to differences in salaries on the transfer of clerks and writers; (*e*) Educational Department, due to the payment of salaries for a certain period, disallowed by the

Council and charged to the Malta Revenue and General Purposes Order in Council, 1901; (*f*) Works Extraordinary, due to a smaller number of works carried out during the year.

EXPENDITURE ON PUBLIC WORKS RECURRENT AND EXTRAORDINARY.

The total expenditure from revenue and other balances actually incurred in the Public Department was as follows:—

From Revenue—			
Recurrent	£53,328	10	1½
Extraordinary	15,452	15	1½
From General Reserve Fund	8,258	1	4½
From Immovable Property Account ...	386	14	5
	£77,426	1	0½

besides £8,460 14*s.* 9½*d.*, charged this year to Malta Revenue and General Purposes Order in Council, 1901, and passed partly in repayments of works carried out under Special Warrants of Advances in this and previous years, and partly transferred to Special Deposits, representing balances of costs of works incompleted.

The above sum of £77,426 1*s.* 0½*d.*, when compared with the provisions voted from Revenue and balances brought forward from other funds, amounting collectively to £89,747 14*s.* 4½*d.*, shows that £1,234 13*s.* 4*d.* remained unexpended at the close of this year on account of savings and incompleted works.

NEW DRAINAGE WORKS UNDER SCHEDULE B.

The extension of the drainage system, for which several Warrants of Advance have from time to time been issued, takes a prominent place among the works carried out during the year. The total expenditure on this service, up to 31st December, 1901, amounted to £47,867 11*s.* 5*d.*, viz.:—

Expended during the year	£24,423	16	10
Expended in previous years	23,443	14	7
	£47,867	11	5

so distributed:—

On Sliema drainage	£28,511	10	1½
On Rabato Intercepting sewer	12,089	11	7½
On Curmi street sewers	7,266	9	8
	£47,867	11	5

Against this amount (£47,867 11*s.* 5*d.*) the Government of Malta received an Imperial contribution of £4,108, representing the instalment of 5 per cent., payable on commencement of work, towards the cost of the above three items; and £2,712 14*s.* 9½*d.* were repaid from Expenditure under the Malta Revenue and General Purposes Order in Council, 1901. The total amount thus transferred to the credit of Special Advances, in part repayment of cost of drainage works, under Schedule B., amounted to £6,820 14*s.* 9½*d.*

The balance, therefore, of expenditure under Warrants remaining uncovered on the 31st December, 1901, was £41,046 16*s.* 7½*d.*

The above amount forms a part of the sum of £49,034 13*s.* 5¾*d.* appearing under Assets. That sum, up to the 13th May, 1902, was reduced to £11,691 17*s.* 9*d.*, and it is hoped that the necessity for such advances appearing as Assets may not recur.

TAXATION.

The revenue of the Island is derived mainly from import duties.

By an Order in Council of 1901, the purport of which is explained further on in this report under Legislation, the duties on wine, spirits, or strong waters, and on beer, were revised, and a duty was established on petroleum, sugar, and tobacco, which were not formerly subject to any impost.

According to the new tariff, the duty paid on—

Wine is on a rising scale, according to the percentage of alcohol contained in 100 parts of dutiable liquid; the rate rising from 3·789*d.* per imperial gallon, containing 15 per cent. of alcohol, up to 4*s.* 5·68*d.* per imperial gallon on wine containing 23 per cent. of alcohol. Wine containing more than 57 per cent. of alcohol is charged as proof spirit. The revised scale tends to proportion the duty to the amount of absolute alcohol in the liquid.

Sparkling and still wines imported in bottles, jars, or otherwise than in casks, are subject to an additional duty of 3*s.* and 1*s.* 2*d.* per gallon respectively. These duties are comparatively light.

Spirits and strong waters, of any strength not exceeding proof by Sykes' hydrometer (London proof), and so in proportion for any strength greater than proof, are subject to duty on the basis of 5*s.* the imperial gallon, or £2 7*s.* 6*d.* per Maltese barrel.

Beer containing 1 per cent. of proof spirit, or more than 1 per cent., pays 4½*d.* per gallon, and 1*d.* per gallon when it contains not more than 1 per cent. of proof spirit. This classification was established to avoid a prohibitive duty on very light beers and non-alcoholic drinks resembling beer.

The duty on beer is levied on every reputed hogshead of 48 gallons, reputed English barrel of 32 gallons, reputed kilderkin of 16 gallons, and reputed firkin of 8 gallons, unless the importer prefers to have the actual quantity of beer gauged, in which case duty is charged on the actual quantity imported, an allowance being made only for waste liquid at the rate of 5 per cent.

The duty on petroleum is 1*d.* per gallon, and on sugar 0·1428*d.* per pound when refined, and 0·0342*d.* when raw. The duty on sugar is comparatively low, and not proportioned to the saccarine value.

Tobacco is subject to duty as follows:—

Manufactured, viz.:—

	Per pound. s.	d.
Cigars or cigarettes	1	0
Cavendish or Negrohead (adjusted to 9*d.* per pound by Proclamation, No. VII., of 17th May, 1902)	1	2
Other manufactured tobacco	0	8
Snuff containing more than 13 pounds of moisture in every 100 pounds weight thereof	0	7
Snuff not containing more than 13 pounds of moisture	0	9
Leaf tobacco	0	2

Stamp duties are, by the same Order in Council, imposed on (*a*) Notarial Acts, (*b*) Bills of Exchange, (*c*) Bills of Lading, (*d*) Charter Party, (*e*) Policy of Insurance, (*f*) Receipts, (*g*) Appraisements or Valuations, (*h*) Sales or other Transfers, and (*i*) Licences.

More supervision and an energetic inspector with wide powers would help to stop evasions of the Stamp duties.

The levying of the above duties commenced on the 7th October, 1901, the day of the proclamation of the Order in Council in the Island, with the exception of the Stamp duties, which came into operation on the 1st January last. There has not, therefore, been sufficient time for ascertaining, even approximately, the amount likely to be derived from this duty.

ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.

The liabilities of the Government Treasury on the 31st December, 1900, amounted to £695,185 1*s.* 9¾*d.*, and the assets to £698,854 19*s.* 3*d.*, or a surplus of assets over liabilities of £3,668 17*s.* 5¼*d.*

On the 31st December, 1901, the assets were £717,984 4*s.* 5¼*d.* and the liabilities £714,365 19*s.* 2*d.*, leaving a balance in favour of the Government of £3,618 5*s.* 3¼*d.*

PUBLIC DEBT.

There is no public debt in Malta, but the Government Treasury is liable to the payment of interest on the private capital of widows, orphans, and poor people which was lost in the failure of the "Massa Frumentaria," (a monopoly for the importation of corn) whose stocks were depleted on the invasion of these Islands by the French in 1798. The capital admitted to interest stands now at £79,168 5*s.* 2*d.*, and is held, in part, by wealthy persons.

This liability originated in a legislative proclamation issued in March, 1805.

This amount was, according to a revision of claims in 1819, assessed at £102,533 14*s.* 3*d.* By Ordinance, No. XIII., of 1858, shares were made transferable by certificates, the minimum being for £10. The right to receive the interest for each one of the years indicated in the certificate is barred by prescription after the lapse of five years reckoned from the last day of March of such year, and on the expiration of five years from the last day of March of the last of the years indicated in any certificate, such certificate ceases for all intents and purposes to have any effect, and it does not give to the holder any right either to receive the interest already due, or to the substitution of another certificate.

Of the original debt, £21,394 1*s.* 8*d.* was bought in by the Government since 1819, and a further sum of £1,971 7*s.* 4½*d.* has otherwise fallen in. The interest paid in 1901 amounted to £1,730 1*s.* 0*d.*

Interest at the rate of 2½ per cent. is also paid by the Government on investments under Ordinance No. V. of 1895, whereby it is enacted that sums of money not less than £50 (being the price of property subject to any entail the revocation of which may have been ordered by the Court for any ground other than of public utility), and belonging to minors and persons considered by the law of unsound mind, insane, or prodigal, to widows and to any other persons having interest in a dowry or a settlement on a wife, might, by order of the competent Court, be invested in the purchase from the Government of a perpetual annuity to be, on such order, constituted by the Government of Malta at the rate of 2½ per cent. The investments in such annuities in 1901 amounted to £200.

CURRENCY.

Pursuant to Order in Council of the 24th September, 1886, British coins are the only legal tender in these Islands; gold coins below tender weight are rejected, and are usually purchased by weight only, the holder bearing the cost of abrasion. The limit up to which silver and bronze coins are received is fixed

at five pounds and one shilling respectively. Payment by cheques is now adopted with great advantage by the Government and the commercial community.

The maximum rate of exchange with London during the past year was:—

Banker's draft, per £100—

6*s.* on demand, 5*s.* being the normal rate.

5*s.* at 3 days' sight.

2*s.* 6*d.* at 30 days' date.

Par at 60 days' date.

¼ per cent. discount at 90 days' date.

Cable transfer, per £100:—

Maximum rate 7*s.*, normal 6*s.*, premium.

Commercial bills, per £100:—

At 30 days' date, 5*s.* discount.

At 90 days' date, 15*s.* discount.

The exchange on France ranged between f. 25·10 and f. 25·20 per £1, and on Italy between 25·75 and 26·25, the average rate for the year being 26.

The British gold coin held in Malta fluctuates according to the sums imported and exported, and the requirements of the fleet. The amount in circulation in the Island is estimated at £520,000, distributed as follows: £420,000 sovereigns, £15,000 half sovereigns, and £85,000 silver coins. The note circulation is restricted to the notes of two local banks, and is estimated at about £20,000; the Banks are not obliged to furnish any return.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

In the absence of statistical data, and of any law requiring the production of manifests of exportation, the quantities of goods exported, and those of non-dutiable goods imported from different countries, cannot be positively ascertained. There is no doubt, however, that the importation of hardware, enamel-ware, electro-plate, household goods, hosiery, clothing material, &c., from foreign countries is materially increasing, and that such importations meet the gradual increase in the demand for those articles and take the place of similar goods which used previously to be imported from the United Kingdom.

The chief causes which have operated in late years in this direction have already been mentioned in previous reports. To those causes others have been added favouring the substitution of articles of foreign manufacture for British goods. The establishment of a direct steam communication between this port and America, coupled with favourable trading terms and the efforts of the Consul for the United States of America, have

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been conspicuous in furthering the interests of American manufacturers and dealers in food-stuffs. The imports from the United States are principally flour, cotton-seed oil, cycles, and fancy goods. The first steamers which started this direct communication with America belonged to an English company—"The Phelp's Direct Line"; but a more frequent communication has now been established by the "Hamburg American Line." The average of arrivals between the two companies is three a month.

The statistical returns furnished by the Customs Department show that the Customs dues collected during the year under report amounted to £229,642 19*s.* 4*d.*, or an increase of £24,579 11*s.* 10*d.* over the previous year. Of this increase, the new duties on sugar, tobacco, and petroleum, collected under the Order in Council of 1901, between the 7th October and the 31st December, produced £3,379 6*s.* 9*d.*

The total value of the imports of dutiable goods for 1901 was £9,915,254, as against £7,434,289, or an increase of £2,480,965; of the above total £1,299,309 is the value of goods actually landed for local consumption; £8,615,945 being the value of cargoes of dutiable goods re-exported in the same vessels.

The imports from the United Kingdom amounted to £425,363, an increase of £120,353 over last year, and they were all landed for local consumption; those from British colonies amounted to £94,333, of which £52,480 were re-exported; and the value of the goods imported from foreign countries was £9,392,787, of which only £829,322 were for local consumption.

The imports from the United Kingdom were higher in regard to beer, preserved meat, manufactured grain, and spirits, while there was a decrease in cotton-seed oil, potatoes, and high class wine.

The imports from the British colonies were higher as regards beef and mutton and pulse, and lower in respect to wheat and barley. Imports from foreign countries show an improvement in beer, bullocks, sheep, horses, Indian corn, olive oil, potatoes, spirits, and wine, and a decrease in wheat, barley, saggina, cotton-seed oil, pulse, and seeds.

The decrease in the quantity of wheat imported has been compensated by a corresponding increase in manufactured grain, principally in the shape of flour.

The present means of communication with America already alluded to, coupled with the fact that the flour which is imported is finer and cheaper than that produced in the Island, have caused a further increase (£3,494 6*s.* 2*d.*) in the duty collected on imported manufactured grain, and about an equal decrease (£3,434 1*s.*) in that on wheat, the percentage of protection in favour of wheat against flour in the present tariff being 39. The increase which would otherwise have resulted under the

two items combined in consequence of the ordinary increase of the population was probably met by a larger consumption of meat and other commodities, and this clearly points to an improvement in the condition of the lower classes, and a wider departure from a diet of bread and oil.

Indian Corn, Barley, Saggina, Inferior and Refuse Grain.—The decrease of £458 13*s.* 6*d.* in the duty on Indian corn, barley, saggina, and inferior grain, and of £408 15*s.* 6*d.* on other food for animals, such as pulse and cotton seed, amounting in the aggregate to £959 9*s.*, was principally caused by the disposal of an exceptional accumulation of refuse grain, the receipts on which exceeded by £956 7*s.* 5*d.* those of the previous year, the decrease on cotton seed being also partly attributable to the quarantine restrictions in force against Smyrna, whence the article is principally imported.

Bullocks, Sheep, and Frozen Meat.—The increase of £2,977 3*s.* 2*d.* under this head is partly attributable to a large consumption of beef by a portion of the population already referred to, but principally to the larger number of military and naval forces stationed in the Island during the year.

Oil and Potatoes.—The small increase of £41 9*s.* 6*d.* on oil is due to ordinary fluctuations in the market, whilst the increase of £771 5*s.* 9*d.* on potatoes is partly due to the fact that certain importations usually made towards the end of the year were not made at the end of 1900 but at the beginning of 1901, and partly to the favourable prices obtained abroad for Maltese potatoes exported during 1900, which encouraged merchants to import a large quantity of seed potatoes for agricultural purposes during the following year.

Spirits.—The receipts on spirits during 1901, £30,763 6*s.* 6*d.*, compared with those of 1900, £18,307 15*s.* 8*d.*, show an increase of £12,455 10*s.* 10*d.*, which is attributable to the increase in the rate of duty. The decrease of bls. 2953·12 in the importation of spirits is due to the fact that a portion of the spirit which had been imported in anticipation of the increase in the rate of duty was still to be disposed of during the year, whilst the rise in the price of the spirits in consequence of such increase of duty has brought about some reduction in consumption. There has in consequence arisen a larger consumption of wine and beer, and some revival of attempts to smuggle.

Wine and Beer.—The importation of wine and beer in 1901 was bls. 303,865·90 and bls. 142,889·72 respectively, and the Customs receipts on these articles amounted to £39,863 6*s.* 8*d.* and £22,618 14*s.* 10*d.* respectively. The increase is due to the necessity of meeting the requirements of the ordinary increase of population, and the decrease in the consumption of spirits produced by the causes above referred to, the increase on beer being also partly attributable to the number of naval seamen in port, and to a large consumption of this beverage by the lower classes.

MALTA, 1901.

The following table shows the value of dutiable goods imported for the last five years preceding 1901, and their average compared with the value of imports of that year:—

Year.	Total.	United Kingdom.	British Colonies.	H.M.'s Ships.	Foreign Countries.
	£	£	£	£	£
1896	10,472,139	143,629	129,716	414	10,198,380
1897	10,895,639	150,473	92,429	358	10,652,379
1898	10,025,131	203,517	519,608	485	9,301,521
1899	6,668,961	297,830	408,685	2,255	5,960,191
1900	7,434,289	305,010	89,208	987	7,039,084
Average of five years	9,099,232	220,092	247,929	899	8,630,311
1901	9,915,254	425,363	94,333	2,771	9,392,787
Above average ...	816,022	205,271	—	1,872	529,476
Below average ...	—	—	153,596	—	—

EXPORTS.

The total value of the exports, exclusive of local produce, was £8,683,126, as against £6,471,567 in the previous year, or an increase of £2,211,559.

Of the exports, £81,153 represents the value of goods actually landed and re-exported, and £8,601,973 the value of goods which merely touched at this port and proceeded in the same vessels.

The total exports for the last five years are as follows:—

Year.	Total.	United Kingdom.	British Possessions	H.M.'s Ships.	Foreign Countries.
	£	£	£	£	£
1897...	10,088,760	1,784,834	1,891,114	9,103	6,403,709
1898...	9,379,140	2,088,589	1,408,986	13,013	5,868,552
1899...	5,449,501	919,202	617,563	9,924	3,902,812
1900...	6,471,567	1,100,924	814,929	7,716	4,547,998
1901...	8,683,126	1,549,412	1,106,302	12,555	6,014,857

The exports of local produce, as ascertained from the shipping agents at this port, were:—

Potatoes—Cantars, 93,164 = cwts. 145,568, against 87,459 cwts. in 1900.

Onions—Cantars, 3,576 = cwts. 5,587, against 11,872 cwts. in 1900.

Cumin seed—Cantars, 3,915 = cwts. 6,117, against 5,786 cwts. in 1900.

Vegetables—Cantars, 6,109 = cwts. 9,545, against 8,177 cwts. in 1900.

Oranges—Doz. 6,240, against 22,035 doz. in 1900.

Cotton goods of local manufacture—Maltese canes 351,769, against 355,372 in 1900, and 254,755 in 1899.

Goats—No. 616, against 112 in 1900.

Mules—No. 36.

Stone—51,953 slabs, 800 tons in blocks, and 12 packages of stone work.

The export of Malta stone (free-stone) was 800 tons in blocks and 1,400 slabs to Italy; 5,010 slabs to Greece; 12 packages of stone-work and 17,443 slabs to Turkey; and 2,810 slabs to Egypt. The quality of the stone exported weighs about one cwt. to the cubic foot.

AGRICULTURE.

Agriculture in Malta maintains its traditional character, which dates many centuries back. Many of the crops and fruit trees known in temperate and sub-tropical climates are grown here. The product of the land, except a part of the crop of potatoes, onions, cumin seed, oranges, mandarines, and melons, which are exported, is consumed locally.

ACREAGE.

The area under crop or on which fruit trees are grown is estimated at 38,545 acres, or a little more than half the extent of the Maltese Islands. Of the remaining half, only 3,755 acres are returned as uncultivated land, consisting mainly of barren rock. A diminution in the arable land, to the extent of 6,000 acres, is due to the fact that the Island of Comino is at present held for sanitary purposes only, no cultivation being carried on on the same, to the taking-up of building sites in suburban districts, and to the construction of new roads, parade grounds, and other military requirements.

MALTA, 1901.

HOLDINGS, LAND TENURE, &c.

The number of holdings remained stationary, about 10,000, with an average of four acres for a holding. The system of land tenure prevailing is a short lease for four or eight years, the traditional rotation of crops being four years, and only plots of land which admit of being improved are given on long lease. The rent of land is relatively high, ranging from £1 to £7 an acre.

CROPS.

Wheat is generally grown for making bread. In Gozo, however, and in some places in Malta, a mixed crop of wheat and barley sown together (called "Mischiato") is also grown for making bread. Barley locally raised has superior malting properties; it supplies the local brewery, and it is used as food for horses, and it is occasionally exported.

Of the beans and pulse, the broad bean is the most extensively grown, the greater part is picked green, and what remains is saved for seed. Sicilian farmers sometimes buy large quantities of the black seed variety for purposes of cultivation.

Potatoes are grown nearly all the year round. There are three distinct crops:—the spring crop, raised from imported Irish seed; the summer crop, grown only on irrigated land; and the winter crop, which is raised from seed saved from the spring crop. Imported Irish seed sold last year at an average price of 8*s.* 4*d.* per cantar of 175 pounds, equal to 5*s.* 4*d.* per cwt. Potato-growing is sometimes very remunerative, but it is a risky speculation in Malta. It requires a considerable initial expenditure in the form of cost of the seed and in the preparation of the soil, and the produce is greatly dependent on the weather, and on the prevalence of disease. To obtain high market prices in England, the time of sowing is very early, but if the seed selected is of inferior quality these early crops very often fail.

Onions were not largely grown last year. Out of a total of 384 acres under onions, 138 were in the district of Siggieui.

The produce of cumin seed was in excess of the demand, hence a good quantity remained unsold.

Orange trees, lemons, and mandarines are badly infected with scale insects, and the fruit is spoiled by the orange-fly. Various expedients have been under consideration for the systematic treatment of scale insects. The orange-growing industry, once so prosperous, is on the decline on account of competition from other centres, and of the deterioration in the quality of the fruit.

Other fruit trees grown are the pomegranate, peach, pear, plum, medlar, fig, prickly pear, carob, olive, mulberry, and the vine.

Many of these trees, especially the fig and prickly pear, being planted in single lines along the walls of open fields, are doing well, and the produce is satisfactory. The pomegranate, peach, pear, plum, medlar, and mulberry, which are planted in groups in gardens, suffer from exhaustion of the soil, and are almost all infested with insect pests. The produce last year was poor, although better than in recent years. The carob in its natural state thrives well, and it produced a good crop last year, which sold at a high price. Olive culture is falling off, and it was only by two farmers that a small quantity of oil was extracted.

During the last ten years there has been a steady increase in the plantation of vines, especially in the Island of Gozo. The number of plants, in fact, now exceeds a million. Unfortunately, however, farmers give preference to the vine yielding table grapes, as it fetches a higher price on the market than wine-making grapes after manufacture into wine. The wine-producing industry is now gaining ground in some quarters, and excellent wine, selling at a good price, is being produced in Malta.

Locally-grown cotton, once so famous, has been reduced to a second class crop. Only 737 acres were grown last year, and in some districts its culture was given up altogether.

Vegetables are grown all the year round on irrigated land, and in open fields during the rainy season. The importation of fresh vegetables from Sicily by the daily mail steamer is felt keenly by gardeners, who cannot get the former high prices for their early crop.

The area under forage has been increased during the last few years. Farmers have realized the fact that with an increase in the number of live stock a greater demand for forage would be expected. The crop, especially of the Maltese clover, was good, and the price was fairly remunerative. Besides the clover, barley and other forage plants, cut green, are grown. Experiments with the prickly comfrey and tenugreek are now being tried, and it is hoped that before long they will be added to the list of crops. The extensive growing of clover benefits local agriculture in many ways. It is in itself an index of increase in the number of live stock, and, therefore, of manure-producing sources; it does not exhaust the soil, but it enriches the same, through the symbiotic action of nitrogen-fixing micro-organisms; the roots remain in the soil, and, when they decay, tend to give it a loamy texture. A drawback, however, is the consequence of extensive clover culture. The soil for nearly one whole year remains untilled, and weeds of all sorts, the wood sorrel especially, are allowed to grow and spread. It is in this way that the *oxalis cernua* (wood sorrel) has grown to be a nuisance all over both Islands.

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LIVE STOCK.

The returns of live stock are based on the weekly declaration of the farmers. The number of horses, including mules and asses, is 10,206, or nearly one animal for every 20 persons. Some are used for agricultural work, but the greater part are employed in the transport of persons, goods, and agricultural produce.

Horned cattle include farm animals employed in agricultural work and such as are stall-fed for the supply of fresh meat. Most of the latter are returned from suburban districts.

Among the milk-producing animals are sheep, whose milk is turned into cheese. The inhabitants are principally supplied with fresh milk by goats, whose milking capabilities are in many cases phenominal.

The number of pigs is 3,590, some are of local breed, but the greater part are imported. They supply fresh meat, some of which is manufactured into sausages.

AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES.

Very few industries are worth mentioning. The wine-producing industry has already been referred to in dealing with the vine culture, and the extensive plantation, and the production of wine.

Honey is produced on a small scale over different spots of the Island, especially at the north-west extremity, where, overlying the upper coralline limestone, are uncultivated lands suitable for the growth of the wild thyme. A firm at Birchircara cultivates the bee on a rational and commercial basis, and the honey produced is of the first quality. The output could be increased were it not for the destruction of the thyme, which is, when dry, collected for fuel.

Elaterium.—Hitherto, elaterium was extracted from the capsules of the squirting cucumber, which is a wild plant. It is now cultured in some fields for the purpose of manufacturing the drug. The culture is, however, very restricted as yet, but it is hoped that it will be increased if found remunerative.

The canaigre and sisal plant are being tried only on an experimental scale.

BOTANIC STATIONS.

There are no botanic stations as yet in the Colony answering to that name. There is a botanic garden, and the Agricultural Society has an experimental farm at its disposal. It is also proposed to start a Government model farm.

The botanic garden is an institution annexed to the University, and its principal scope is to furnish living materials for

the study of general and medical botany. During the last ten years it has been increased in extent and scope.

The following fall now within its object:—

1. Practical teaching of botany to students in the faculty of literature and science, and of medical botany to students in the faculty of medicine and pharmacy.

2. The formation of collections of plants, classified according to their natural affinities.

3. The systematic introduction of new plants, ornamental or economic, to suit the soil and climate of the Maltese Islands.

4. The distribution, by sale or exchange, of plant seeds, bulbs, &c.

5. The spread of information by correspondence, or otherwise, of various branches of botany and agriculture.

6. The training of apprentices in the art of gardening.

7. The taking of earth temperature at various depths.

8. The formation of an herbarium and botanical library.

The botanic garden is a very ancient institution. It was founded, in 1676, under the Order of St. John of Jerusalem, and, with the exception of the Oxford botanic garden, founded in 1630, and that of Edinburgh, which originated in 1670, it is the oldest in the British Empire.

The Società Economico Agraria is an independent body in receipt of annual grants from the Government, viz., £80 for the encouragement and improvement of agriculture, £20 towards a model farm, and £67 to enable the society to select local agricultural produce for season competition, and award prizes. The society originated when Sir William Reid was Governor, and its main object has been to hold an annual agricultural show at Boschetto. In the experimental farm seeds are tested before they are distributed to farmers. Many suggestions for the benefit of the agricultural community have from time to time been made, but the society could not accomplish much in the absence of an executive paid to give effect to projects which had been approved. The Government has, therefore, appointed an Inspector of Agriculture, whose duties are the following:—

1. To have direction of the Government model farm.

2. To collect and transmit periodically, for publication, useful information and statistical data on agriculture.

3. To report to Government the nature and extent of diseases affecting the plants and crops, and to suggest remedies, and supervise their distribution and application.

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4. To inspect, or cause competent persons to inspect, agricultural produce, tubers, or seeds, subject to disease, on their importation in these Islands.

5. To issue certificates in connection with local produce free from disease.

6. To advise the Government as to any measures to be taken to prevent the importation into these Islands of disease affecting agriculture.

7. To correspond with the authorities of botanical gardens in Great Britain, the colonies, and the Continent, with a view to the gradual and systematic introduction of new, useful, and ornamental trees and plants adapted to the climatic and telluric conditions of these Islands.

8. To supply Government institutions with seeds, shrubs, and trees, when required.

9. To advise heads of departments, whenever required, on the planting of trees and plants.

Besides the duties above mentioned, the Inspector of Agriculture is expected to perform any other duties in connection with agriculture which the head of the Government may require of him.

SHIPPING.

The shipping returns show the following comparison between 1900 and 1901 :—

Year.	Steamers Entered.		Steamers Cleared.		Sailing Vessels Entered.		Sailing Vessels Cleared.		Totals	
	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.
1900	2,549	3,473,576	2,546	3,468,096	1,265	64,512	1,255	63,446	7,615	7,069,630
1901	2,523	3,463,906	2,527	3,471,371	1,387	69,797	1,403	71,281	7,840	7,076,355
Increase in 1901 ...	—	—	—	3,275	122	5,285	148	7,835	225	6,725
Decrease in 1901 ...	26	9,670	19	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

It will be observed that whilst the totals show an increase both in the number of vessels and in tonnage, the increase is only in sailing vessels, there being, on the other hand, a decrease in the number of steamers entered and cleared.

The following figures apportion the tonnage between British and foreign shipping which entered and cleared in 1901 with cargoes, compared with the corresponding figures for 1900:—

	1901.		1900.		Total.	
	British.	Foreign.	British.	Foreign.	1901.	1900.
Entered ...	2,413,309	1,045,126	2,355,458	1,053,200	3,458,435	3,408,658
Cleared ...	2,202,436	1,000,553	2,095,539	1,000,012	3,202,989	3,095,551
Total ...	4,615,745	2,045,679	4,450,997	2,053,212	6,661,424	6,504,209

It appears from the foregoing figures that the general movement of shipping with cargo in 1901, as distinguished from vessels in ballast, gave a total of 6,661,424 register tons, an increase of 157,215 tons, as compared with 1900, and that the increase belongs entirely to British tonnage, which shows an improvement of 164,748 tons, whilst foreign shipping has decreased by 7,533 tons.

The following table is a comparative statement of the total shipping entered and cleared for the last five years:—

Year.	Entered.		Cleared.	
	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.
1897	4,111	3,637,426	4,098	3,607,042
1898	3,890	3,563,728	3,874	3,581,993
1899	3,560	3,297,712	3,580	3,292,942
1900	3,814	3,538,088	3,801	3,531,542
1901	3,910	3,533,703	3,930	3,542,652

LEGISLATION.

The Council of Government held 33 sittings between the 16th January and the 24th December, 1901, during which period 18 legal enactments were passed. Of these, four (Nos. I., IX., X., and XI.) are Ordinances of Appropriation, and Nos. V. and XII. Consolidation Ordinances. Of the other Ordinances, Nos. IV., VI., VIII., XIII., XIV., XV., and XVI. are the most important.

Ordinance No. IV. authorizes the Registrar of the Superior Courts to dispose, by public auction, of articles of a nominal value or no value which formed part of old "regular deposits," under the authority of the Court, but the origin of which could not be traced.

Ordinance No. VI. has for its object the substitution in existing laws of words to indicate, in place of Her Majesty the Queen, the Sovereign for the time being of the United Kingdom.

Ordinance No. VII., or "The Second Sanitary Law, 1900," is the second of a series of enactments that have become necessary for a thorough revision and consolidation of the sanitary laws. The First Sanitary Ordinance had for its object the consolidation and amendment of the law relating to the organization of the Public Health Department, to which the execution of the duties of all sanitary laws is entrusted. This Second Sanitary Ordinance consolidates and amends the laws referring to the practice of sanitary and kindred professions.

The Ordinance is divided into eight chapters, containing the necessary provisions, the first as regards the practice of sanitary and kindred professions, the second respecting physicians and surgeons, the third concerning veterinary surgeons, the fourth respecting apothecaries, the fifth respecting midwives, the sixth with regard to dentists and phlebotomists, the seventh respecting trades akin to sanitary professions, and the last chapter refers to procedure and punishments.

This Ordinance was, later in the year, repealed, but all its provisions were re-enacted in the repealing Ordinance (No. XIII. of 1901), with the exception of the fourth paragraph of Article 5, according to which a licence to practise the profession of physician and surgeon could not be granted to a person who has been admitted to practise his profession under the provisions of an Act of the Imperial Parliament, unless he satisfied the Medical Board that he has attended one or more recognized hospitals in Malta or abroad, and has therein practised medicine or surgery for at least one year after having been admitted to practise his profession under the provisions of an Act of Parliament.

The law, as amended, affords to the registered medical practitioners of the United Kingdom such privileges of practising in Malta as are granted to graduates of the Malta University, and

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leaves no legal objection to the second part of the Medical Act, 1836, being extended to Malta. That Act was, in fact, made applicable to these Islands by His Majesty's Order in Council of 26th September, 1901.

Ordinance No. VIII. amends Article 967 of the laws of organization and civil procedure, which provided that when a deposit of anything, not being a deposit of money, is made under the authority of the Court, and when the parties interested neglect to take the steps prescribed in order that such deposits may be disposed of, it shall be in the power of the Court, on a representation by the Registrar, to order that the interested parties be called upon to take such steps within a reasonable period to be fixed by the Court, and, if they omit to do so, the said Court shall be empowered to decree that the things deposited be withdrawn by the owner, or that they be sold by auction, in which latter case the proceeds of the sale by auction shall be deposited.

It was found in practice that as the Registrar had power to apply for orders for the disposal of deposits only when he thought that the parties concerned had neglected to take steps to dispose of the deposits, the Registrar did not make use of such powers, the consequence being that valuable stores belonging to the Government became encumbered with articles deposited which it was difficult in many instances to trace.

The above provision of the law has now been amended to the effect that "it shall be lawful" for the Registrar to apply for orders concerning the disposal of such deposits, also, "when three years have elapsed from the day on which such deposits may have been made."

Ordinance No. XIV. regulates the conditions under which it is permitted to establish, in Malta, carrier pigeon lofts, an enactment considered necessary in the interests of the military defence of these Islands.

Ordinance No. XV. makes provisions for the prevention of damages on and about gun, rifle, or torpedo ranges in Malta. The provisions of this law are generally based on the Artillery and Rifle Range Act, 1885.

Ordinance No. XVI. was passed for the object (1) of preventing and punishing outrages by explosive substances, and (2) for punishing and preventing damages to the electric light machinery or cables, and to the conduits, or any part of the public drainage, such outrages not having been previously contemplated in the criminal laws.

Another important Act affecting these Islands is the "Malta Revenue and General Purposes Order in Council, 1901," by which taxation was authorized, for a period of 13 years, on beer, petroleum, sugar, and tobacco, and existing taxes and duties were revised, for the object of providing the necessary funds to carry out urgent works for water supply, drainage,

school accommodation, and for other needs of the Island which could not previously be defrayed out of the actual revenue. The estimated annual yield of the additional taxation is £38,130.

The sums reserved under the Order are £35,000 for schools, £300,000 for drainage, £20,000 for water works, £5,000 for the improvement of the Central Civil Hospital, £8,000 for a hospital for female lepers, £2,500 for a ward for criminal lunatics, and £10,000 for roads. The Governor is empowered by the same Order in Council to issue warrants, not exceeding £9,000 in any one financial year, for expenditure, not otherwise provided for, in respect of services that may be sanctioned by the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

EDUCATION.

The Education Department administered by the Government consists of two branches:—

(*a.*) That which comprises a University, a lyceum, two secondary schools, and a technical school; and

(*b.*) The elementary schools, consisting of 111 day schools, 35 night schools, and a training school for the instruction of monitors and assistant teachers.

There are, besides, private educational enterprises, including six colleges for boys and young men, and four schools for girls, in which a good secondary education is given; there are 14 institutions in which the standard of instruction approximates to that of the Government elementary schools; and 103 other small schools kept by private individuals. The above colleges and schools are attended by 3,906 pupils, of whom 2,004 are boys and 1,902 girls.

The University comprises four Faculties:—

(I.) Of literature and science, which includes—

(*a.*) An academical course of literature.

(*b.*) An academical course of science.

(*c.*) A course preparatory to the faculties of medicine, law, and theology.

(II.) Of medicine and surgery.

(III.) Of law.

(IV.) Of theology.

The course of literature and science extends over three years, that of each of the other faculties over four years.

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The year 1901 brought the quadrennial (1897-1901) academical course of the faculties of medicine, law, and theology to a close. The degree of M.D. was conferred upon thirteen students, that of LL.D. upon seven students, and that of D.D. upon one student. The degrees of M.A. and B.A. were conferred upon six and five students respectively.

In future, in addition to the degrees of M.D., LL.D., and D.D., the degrees conferred by the University will include, in conformity with the Statute of 1898, B.Lit. (Bachelor of Literature), B.Sc. (Bachelor of Science), D.Lit. (Doctor of Literature), and D.Sc. (Doctor of Science).

The attendance at the University in 1901 was 116, or an increase of 39 above that of the previous year.

A matriculation examination for admission to the faculty of literature and science is held annually. In 1901, 27 candidates were successful.

The Lyceum comprises two sections. In one, instruction of a higher grade is imparted, the other section is preparatory to the former. The syllabus of each section provides for a three years' course. The higher section has a classical and modern side. The classical side is preparatory to the faculty of literature and science in the University; the modern side is preparatory for admission to the civil service, the army, the navy, a commercial career, teaching, mechanical engineering, civil engineering and architecture, and navigation.

In 1901, the Lyceum was attended by 443 students, or an increase of nine on the attendance of 1900.

An examination for admission to this institution is held once a year.

Of the secondary schools, one is for young ladies, and is in Valletta. In this school pupils are admitted at any time, and receive a good general modern education, and are prepared for the Oxford local examination. The full course extends over six years.

The attendance in 1901 was 140, or 20 more than in the previous year. The attendance in this school has steadily increased since 1898, and considerable progress has been made in the working of the school during the same period.

The other secondary school, which is at Victoria, Gozo, is for boys, and the course extends over four years, admission examinations being held biennially.

The attendance for the year under review was 25.

The technical and manual school is attended by young apprentices, who receive instruction in drawing, modelling in clay, plaster casting, stucco work, cabinet making, wood and stone carving. It was attended by twelve pupils in 1901.

The expenditure incurred in 1901 in respect of the above institutions, including the Education Office, but exclusive of minor works and repairs in the buildings, was as follows:—

Education Office	£1,033	16	6
University	3,826	14	10
Lyceum	2,629	15	5
Secondary Schools	687	5	10
Technical and Manual School	213	6	4
Messengers, establishment, stationery, and transport	232	7	5
Total	£8,623	6	4

Calculated on the above expenditure, and on the attendance, the cost of each student was £11 14*s.* 3*d.*

Elementary Schools.

The elementary schools in Malta and Gozo maintained by the Government consist of 111 day and 35 night schools, and are distributed as follows:—

Boys—Model 1; elementary, in Malta 28, in Gozo 9	38
Boys—Drawing, day 5, evening 4	9
Night—Elementary, in Malta 26, in Gozo 5 ...	31
Girls—Model 1; elementary, in Malta 31, in Gozo 5	40
Girls—Infant, in Malta 4, in Gozo 2	6
Mixed—Infant	14
Girls—Drawing, in Malta	4
Wood-carving and modelling	3
Sunday—(Secular instruction)	1
	146

At the beginning of the scholastic year, 1900-1, the number of children on the registers of the above schools was 15,789, of which the average annual enrolment was 14,312, the attendance being 11,685, or 81·6 per cent. on the average enrolment.

The attendance in the day schools is reported to have been 10,996, corresponding to 83·5 per cent. on the annual average enrolment of 13,162, against 10,470 in the previous year, with a percentage of attendance of 80·6.

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The attendance in the night schools was 689, being a percentage of 59·9 on the average annual enrolment of 1,150.

The number of children who left the schools during the year was 5,144, and 5,682 were admitted during the same period.

The number of children examined during the year was 11,304, of whom 9,854, or 87·1 per cent., passed, with an average percentage of 74·8 of marks. The results were generally satisfactory, the slight decrease in the percentage of passes, as compared with that of the previous year, being due to the greater difficulty of the arithmetic tests under the revised scheme of instruction now carried out in its entirety.

The value of the improvement of the instruction received in the elementary schools is shown by the fact that out of 39 boys belonging to those schools who went up for the Lyceum examinations, 25, or 64·1 per cent., passed; of these, 2 were placed in the IV., 10 in the V., and 13 in the VI. (lowest) classes of the Lyceum. The total number of boys who passed into the Lyceum was 81 out of 141 candidates; the percentage of passes from the elementary schools was, therefore, 30·9.

The boys from the elementary schools have also generally been very successful at the dockyard examinations for apprentices, 17 of them having been admitted this year; 5 others were employed as apprentices in public gardens, and 20 passed into the Bishop's seminary after undergoing the prescribed examination.

Although additional accommodation has been found for about 2,000 children in the course of the scholastic year, owing to the recent extensions of some of the schools and the hiring of new premises, there are still 4,313 on the books seeking admission, against 5,700 in the previous year. It is evident, therefore, that further exertions are required to provide for the demand. The Government have done all in their power to meet this urgent necessity of school accommodation, by their proposing in the Council of Government to build school premises at Crendi, Gargur, Chircop, Zeitun, Guida, and Naxaro, and to extend, or otherwise improve, the present school at Hamrun and Valletta, but such like proposals have been systematically opposed by the Elected Members.

The total cost of the elementary schools in 1901 was £17,940 12*s.* 3*d.*, of which £14,842 9*s.* 1*d.* was "personal emoluments," and £3,098 3*s.* 2*d.* "other charges," exclusive of minor works and other expenses, in connection with the extension and up-keep of school premises. The average cost of each pupil on the roll was, therefore, £1 2*s.* 9*d.*, but, if calculated on the annual average enrolment it amounted to £1 5*s.* 1*d.*, and on the average attendance, to £1 10*s.* 8*d.*, against £1 6*s.* 1*d.* in 1900.

The above expenditure shows an increase of £2,952 7*s.* 5*d.* over that in 1900. The increase is mainly due to the revised scheme of classification of the teaching staff, which provided

for the placing of first-class assistant teachers on the fixed establishment, the abolition of result fees, and for an allowance to certain teachers for teaching gymnastics. Attendance at the training school is made compulsory by the new regulations, and has so far borne good results, although the school itself requires development and expansion in regard to the instruction therein imparted.

The practice of sending male and female assistant teachers, after proper preparation in the local training school, to go through a course of two years' training at a college in England to qualify as head teachers in our schools is being continued with satisfactory results. The four male teachers sent to Hammersmith in 1900 have, in fact, obtained very creditable reports, especially one, who took three first-classes in the Science and Art Examination, and passed very well in the second division of the II. Class of the Certificate Examination. This is the more creditable in view of the fact that Maltese students have, for the first time, been grouped with the English ones, and no exception was made for our students in the classification of the certificate results, as heretofore.

From the foregoing it will be seen that the total expenditure in respect of education in these Islands amounted in 1901 to £26,563 18*s.* 7*d.*, or more than one-fourteenth of the revenue, and about one-fifteenth of the total expenditure for the same year.

An addition to the staff of inspectors is required to raise the standard of efficiency in the schools at a distance from Valletta.

Considerable progress was made in 1901 with the preparation by the Government of a Standard English-Maltese Dictionary, and the following scholastic publications were issued from the Government printing office, viz:—

Bidu Tal Kari Malti (Maltese Primer), in 1898.

It-Tieni Ctieb tal Kari Malti (Second Book), with a literary English translation, in 1899.

A Short History of Malta, in 1899.

Outlines of English Grammar, in 1901.

Taghlim fuk Id-Dinja (Earth Knowledge), in 1901.

A Catechism of Christian Doctrine, in English and Maltese, in 1901.

GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

HOSPITALS, ASYLUMS, AND POOR HOUSES.

The charitable institutions in Malta and Gozo, which are wholly maintained by the Government, are:—

In Malta.—The Central and Seamen's Hospitals at Floriana; Santo Spirito Hospital at Notabile; Manoel Hospital at the Quarantine Harbour; the Lunatic Asylum near Casal Attard; the Orphan Asylum in Valletta; the Poor House, which has also accommodation for penitent women and for foundlings; and an asylum for male lepers.

In Gozo.—A hospital for ordinary diseases at Victoria; a hospital for infectious diseases near Xeuchia, and an asylum for aged and incurables at Victoria.

There are, besides, Government dispensaries, in both Islands, in charge of District Medical Officers, who give medical assistance and dispense medicines to the poor, both at the dispensaries and at the patients' dwellings, and a "Monte di Pietá," or Government pawning establishment in each Island.

Other branches of public charity are:—

The distribution of out-door relief to persons who are not suitable objects for admission to the institutions; the grant of monthly subsidies for the nursing of foundlings and other infants; gratuitous assistance to midwives in cases when the patients and their relatives cannot pay for that service; the burial of paupers; and the supervision of such private charitable institutions as are directly or indirectly subsidized by the Government.

The foregoing institutions have, in the course of 1901, afforded medical and surgical treatment and maintenance to 5,636 persons in Malta and 759 in Gozo. The District Medical Officers have, besides, attended, in both Islands, 103,291 cases of disease or injury at the several dispensaries in the towns and villages, and at the patients' dwellings, 4,130 vaccinations were performed by the same officers; 2,502 persons received pecuniary assistance in monthly doles, and in "immediate relief" granted in special cases of distress; 125 foundlings and other children were kept at nurse; and gratuitous assistance of a midwife was granted in 128 cases since July, 1901, when that service first began; and 814 burials of paupers were paid for by the Government.

The poor of these Islands were further assisted by having small sums of money advanced to them at a low rate of interest (5 per cent.) by the Monte di Pietá on production of pledges, consisting in gold and silver articles and draperies of all sorts.

The following tables show the principal statistics relative to hospitals, asylums, and poor houses in the year under report:—

Hospitals.

—	In Hospital on 1st January 1901.	Admitted during the Year.	Daily Average.	Patients Discharged.	No. of Deaths.
Central Hospital	142	2,304	156	2,056	227
Seamen's Hospital	5	55	4	52	2
Santo Spirito Hospital ...	66	420	71	366	53
Manoel Hospital	15	118	5	103	26
Gozo Hospital	31	440	33	372	64
Do. for Contagious Diseases.	—	87	5	75	12
Total	259	3,424	274	3,024	384

Asylums.

—	Inmates remaining on 31st December, 1900.	Admitted during 1901.	Daily Average.	Discharged.	No. of Deaths.
Asylum for the Aged and Infirm :—					
1. Aged and Infirm ...	724	192	692	23	159
2. Incurables	189	35	182	9	30
3. Lepers	79	8	73	5	11
Lunatic Asylum	697	107	659	80	56
Orphan Asylum	97	7	95	10	—
Ospizio-Gozo	147	33	148	2	26
Total	1,933	382	1,849	129	282

The total expenditure for the maintenance of the above charities in 1901 amounted to £57,004, or more than one-seventh of the total expenditure of the Island.

The receipts of the Department of Charitable Institutions, in 1901, amounted to £8,229 3*s.* 8½*d.*

A large proportion of the amount collected for the treatment of patients in hospitals consists of fees received for the keeping of patients in the lunatic asylum. There being no private institution in Malta where persons suffering from mental disease can be admitted the Government lunatic asylum has necessarily to be resorted to, even in the case of patients who are not poor, and who are, therefore, required to refund the cost, according to their means. Hence the large number of inmates in that institution.

The new works carried out were the construction of the extension of the lunatic asylum, at a cost of £582; completing the installation of electric light in the Central Hospital, £105; and laying the foundation of a chapel in the poor house, £514.

Besides the works of some magnitude, which have for some time been brought to notice, namely, the building of an asylum for female lepers, a separate wing for criminal patients in the lunatic asylum, further extension of the same institution, two additional wards in the male division of the poor house; continuation of the building of the chapel in the poor house, the building of a new general hospital, there are several structural and other improvements urgently required in the charitable institutions, which involve a comparatively smaller amount of expenditure, and which it would be very desirable to carry out in order to render the institutions better fit for the object for which they are intended, in accordance with recognized modern principles of sanitation and management. The execution of those works, however, had to be deferred for financial considerations.

In the Central Hospital a pathologist was appointed, and a chemical and bacteriological laboratory was fitted up and supplied with modern appliances, a measure which has proved to be most beneficial, both in the interest of the patients under treatment and of scientific training. The Leper Asylum had its establishment increased by the appointment of a Chief Attendant and of three other attendants, an addition which was found to be absolutely necessary, owing to the large amount of labour caused by the nature of the disease with which those patients are afflicted, and also with a view to maintain order and discipline among the inmates, some of whom proved to be disorderly. Such conduct on the part of the inmates has required the assistance of the police, which had been called in the year before. The lepers are, notwithstanding, treated with every possible consideration and indulgence. Their food is liberal, means are provided for their recreation, and an annual grant of £45 was authorized to be distributed in small monthly allowances to such of the patients who volunteer to perform household or other light work in the institution. But, so far, these inducements have not been generally appreciated. The relatives of lepers dependent upon them are, moreover, assisted by monthly subsidies in cases when it is found that relief is required. The annual grant of £100 has been authorized for that object.

The private institutions which are assisted by the Government are:—

1. The "Casa di S. Giuseppe," which receives a subsidy of £120 per annum. The average number of boys maintained in the institution, in 1901, was 37.

2. The Convent of the Good Shepherd, kept by the Sisters known by that designation, receives an annual subsidy of £60.

3. The other institution, which is somewhat assisted by the Government by being allowed the use of a house at a reduced rent, is the "Crêche," conducted by the Ursoline Sisters.

Savings Banks.

The deposits during the year 1901 amounted to £120,109 7*s.* 1*d.*, and the withdrawals to £117,229 0*s.* 2¾*d.*, making an excess of deposits over withdrawals of £2,880 6*s.* 10¼*d.* The number of depositors rose to 7,177 from 6,960 in the previous year, and the total amount of deposits, on the 31st December, stood at £546,492 10*s.* 9*d.*, against £535,571 10*s.* 9*d.* in 1900.

Out of the above deposits, £529,000 was the amount of invested funds, the interest from which, together with the proceeds of the sale of pass-books and the unappropriated interest on deposits, produced a revenue of £13,780 9*s.* 11*d.*, which left, after deducting the expenses of management and interest on deposits, a net profit of £4,723 12*s.* 11*d.* on the year's transactions, against £5,254 0*s.* 1*d.* in 1900.

The table below shows the synopsis of the transactions of the banks during the last five years, from which it will be seen that, whilst the deposits and withdrawals have varied since 1897, the number of depositors and the amount of their credit at the close of each year were continually on the increase:—

Year.	Number of depositors at 31st December.	Amount deposited.	Amount of withdrawals	Total amount to credit of depositors at 31st December.
		£	£	£
1897	6,614	113,963	105,088	514,878
1898	6,657	99,113	102,606	519,038
1899	6,750	105,195	109,797	522,148
1900	6,960	115,157	109,492	535,571
1901	7,177	120,109	117,229	546,492

JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

POLICE.

The strength of the Malta police force consists of one superintendent, 31 officers, 107 subordinate officers, and 570 constables.

It is divided into two branches—the interior and the marine branch.

The interior branch is composed of the superintendent, 1 senior assistant superintendent, 5 assistant superintendents, 15 inspectors, 10 sub-inspectors, 6 first-class sergeants, 65 sergeants, and 334 constables; and the marine branch of 1 senior assistant superintendent, 2 assistant superintendents, 7 inspectors, 4 sub-inspectors, 4 first-class sergeants, 18 sergeants, and 236 constables.

Recruiting nearly ceased during 1901, while many serviceable men took their discharge for better situations at the dockyard and elsewhere.

The pay of the subordinate officers and men has now been increased by 4*d.* a day, and recruits of good physique, with a knowledge of English, are presenting themselves in sufficient number.

The criminal statistics for the year show a marked increase in the number of offences, though serious crime against person or property is rare.

In the country districts, where dwelling places and rural buildings are left wholly unprotected, occasional pilfering takes place.

The number of offences reported to the police during the year was 10,436, an increase of 4,157 over the number reported in 1900. Of the above, 835 were against the person, 19 against the good order of families, 579 offences against property, and 9,003 other offences.

The increase in the total number of offences is due to the enforcement of several new laws, and principally of the new vehicle and vehicular traffic Ordinance, of bye-laws to regulate the market, prostitutes, mendicants, scavengers, &c., which give rise to numerous proceedings in the Police Court for contraventions. The number of offences in 1900, exclusive of crimes against the person and property, was 5,020, as against 9,003 in 1901. The difference consequently is principally due to contraventions attributable to new Ordinances and to increased vigilance in the enforcement of the law in general.

The number of persons brought before the Magistrates' Court by arrest, warrant, or summons, for offences, was 11,536, as compared with 9,810 in the previous year. Of these, 10,556 were summarily convicted, 188 committed for trial in the

Superior Courts, and 792 were discharged on the cases against them falling through for want of prosecution.

The summary convictions were for the following offences:—

Against the person	904
Against the good order of families	18
Against property	607
For other offences	9,027

In the Superior Courts the number of persons committed for trial was 188, of whom 56 were acquitted, and 132 were convicted of various offences, viz., 1 for manslaughter, 3 for attempt at murder, 1 child murder, 1 concealment of birth, 53 other offences against the person, 1 for malicious injury to property, 3 robbery with violence, 28 other offences against property, 17 offences against the good order of families, 4 false evidence, and 20 for miscellaneous offences.

It will be seen that, in regard to serious crime, the above compares favourably with the previous year, when there were four convictions out of seven cases for murder.

PRISONS.

There are three prisons in the Colony: (*a*) at Corradino Hill, (*b*) in Valletta, attached to the Police Department, and (*c*) in Gozo.

The Corradino Prison is on the mixed cellular system, as regards criminal wards, and it has 254 separate cells and 6 wards; the Valletta Prison, which has only 6 available cells, is not on a separate system, and no effectual separation can, as a rule, be enforced, in consequence of the premises being defective, and not suitable for reconstruction. They are intended for the temporary detention (*a*) of prisoners sentenced during the day until their removal to the Corradino Prison in the afternoon, (*b*) of those arrested late in the evening or by night, and (*c*) of prisoners escorted from the Corradino Prison early in the morning to stand their trial. It is advisable that the Courts of Justice, with suitable prisons, should be reconstructed on suitable plans, and in a central but more quiet part of Valletta.

The Gozo Prison has four cells and three wards, two of which have exercise yards attached.

The total number of persons committed to prison in 1901 was 5,036, of whom 4,040 were men, 228 women, and 768 juveniles, as against 4,685 men, 344 women, and 1,010 juveniles in the previous year. Of these, 5 were committed for debt, 2,498 for safe custody pending trial or for want of bail, and 2,533 for purposes of penal imprisonment.

2,905 were committed for the first time, 860 for the second, and 1,113 had been convicted more than three times

MALTA, 1901.

The number of persons committed to penal imprisonment, including hard labour, was as follows:—

5 for five years or more.
37 for one year or more.
79 for more than three months and less than one year.
4,787 for three months or less.

The daily average in the prisons was 241, as against 246 in 1900. The health of the prison was good, the daily average on the sick list having been four, two were treated in the hospital; only one death, from old age, occurred during the year.

The punishments inflicted were:—

Solitary confinement on bread and water	41
Dark cell on bread and water	1
Reduction from class	23
Admonished	65
Total	130

The earnings of prisoners from industrial and remunerative work amounted to £980. The labour is applied in building, stone-cutting, carpentering, glazing, shoe-making, painting, white-washing, tailoring, basket, mat, and broom-making, gardening, and in field labour.

The total cost of the prisons in 1901 was £4,634 19*s.* 6*d.*, of which £1,710 4*s.* 6*d.* was "personal emoluments," and £2,924 15*s.* "other charges." Of the above, £251, expended in the maintenance of consular, naval, and military prisoners, were recouped, leaving £4,113 19*s.* 6*d.* as the net expenditure of the prisons for the year.

Religious services are regularly performed for the benefit of the prisoners by a Roman Catholic chaplain, and by visiting chaplains for members of the Church of England, Presbyterians, and Wesleyans.

Steps have been taken to construct a ward for prisoners suffering from contagious diseases.

LIFE STATISTICS.

POPULATION.

The population of these Islands for 1901 is estimated at 188,141, or an increase of 4,462 on the estimated population of 1900. This estimate is calculated by the excess of births over deaths, and of arrivals over departures since 31st March, 1901, on which date the Census of the whole population was taken.

The civil population on Census day was returned as 184,742 (91,994 males and 92,748 females).

The increase of population, therefore, from 31st March to 31st December, 1901, has been 3,399, from which, however, should be deducted 1,650 persons belonging to military families, leaving, therefore, a net increase of the civil population of 1,749.

The number of births registered during the year was 7,140. This is equal to a general birth-rate of 38 per 1,000, which is the same rate of the previous year.

The deaths recorded numbered 4,677, or 24·86 per 1,000 of the population, as compared with 27·51 in 1900.

The number of marriages was 1,226, or 57 more than in 1900.

PUBLIC HEALTH.

The general state of the public health was good. The percentage of deaths under five years to total deaths is 49·93. There were 291 deaths from zymotic diseases, or 6·1 per cent. to total deaths.

The death-rate in the urban zone (the fortified towns), which is drained, was, for the year, 24·75. The death-rate for the suburban undrained zone was 26·43, and that for the rural area was 24·27.

SANITATION.

From September, diphtheria prevailed in an epidemic form in both Islands. 92 cases were reported in Malta and 80 in Gozo. The mortality in Malta was 50 per cent., whilst in Gozo only six cases out of 80 ended fatally. This result is attributed to the use of the "anti-diphtheric serum."

Thirteen cases of small-pox occurred during the year, besides seven cases landed from ships.

There has likewise been an epidemic of anthrax among cattle. 49 carcases of dead animals were diagnosed as cases of anthrax.

CLIMATE.

The total rainfall for the year was 24·828 inches.

The following meteorological return for 1901 shows the prevailing temperature for each month of the year, the rainfall, and general direction of wind:—

Month.	Temperature.						Rainfall.		Winds.		Remarks.
	Solar maximum.	Minimum on grass.	Shade maximum.	Shade minimum.	Range (mean daily).	Mean.	Amount in inches.	Degree of humidity.	General Direction.	Average Force.	
January ...	114·3°	35·4	62·9	39·5	9·5	52·9	5·386	80	N.E. & S.W.	·83205	
February ...	122·3°	36·2	67·2	40·3	11·9	53·7	3·676	80	S.E. & N.W.	·60500	
March ...	129·5°	39·9	71·5	45·2	13·3	56·8	0·812	80	S. & S.W.	·63845	
April ...	136·8°	45·6	87·7	50·4	13·5	60·6	0·095	76	E. & N.W.	·57245	
May ...	139·4°	46·0	77·8	50·6	14·0	62·8	1·544	78	N. & N.W.	·46080	
June ...	140·0°	56·2	91·8	60·5	16·4	72·2	0·210	70	N.W. & W.N.W.	·37845	
July ...	162·9	60·3	103·0	64·3	18·2	79·6	0·0	64	N.W. & E.	·15125	
August ...	148·7	62·5	93·8	64·4	15·3	77·5	0·156	73	W.N.W. & N.W.	·33620	
September ...	149·6	56·5	90·3	60·7	15·5	75·6	0·190	75	E. & S.E.	·36980	
October ...	140·9	48·1	83·5	52·2	16·0	68·1	5·666	81	W. & S.E.	·36125	
November ...	125·2	40·9	76·6	46·5	14·5	61·0	4·157	79	W. & S.E.	·45125	
December ...	119·8	36·9	67·7	40·3	11·7	56·9	1·936	77	W. & S.E.	·72000	

POSTAL, TELEGRAPH, AND TELEPHONE SERVICES.

A.—POST OFFICE.

The general results of the Post Office Department in 1901 are very satisfactory, from a business, as well as from a financial point of view. The receipts, in fact, amounted to £17,156 13*s.* 3*d.*, and the expenditure being £14,673 13*s.* 10*d.*, a net profit of £2,482 19*s.* 5*d.* has been realized on the postal transactions. This is due partly to a decrease in the expenditure as compared with that of 1900, but chiefly to the recovery from the effects of the adoption of the penny postage in 1899. All classes, in fact, of mail matter dealt with during the year under review show an increase, which is greatest in the case of postcards, principally due, as already explained in previous reports, to the ever-increasing exchange of illustrated private postcards (11·66 per cent. over that of 1900) now forming another subject for the attention of collectors.

The transactions of the parcel post during the year also exceeded by 6·95 per cent. those of the preceding year, the total number of parcels received and despatched having been 62,739, as against 58,663 in 1900.

It is also gratifying to note the important increase in the revenue of £1,936 14*s.* 11*d.* over the receipts of the previous year.

The following comparative statements show the revenue and cost of the Post Office and the mail matter dealt with in 1901, as compared with those of 1900:—

Revenue.			Expenditure.		
1900.	1901.	Increase.	1900.	1901.	Decrease.
£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d*	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*
15,219 18 4	17,156 13 3	1,936 14 11	14,730 1 1	14,673 13 10	56 7 3

PARTICULARS OF MAIL MATTER.

Articles.	Received and Despatched.		Increase (+) or Decrease (−) per cent.
	1900.	1901.	
Letters	3,441,237	3,575,013	+ 3·89
Post Cards... ...	195,637	218,452	+ 11·66
Printed Matter ...	2,023,600	2,054,689	+ 1·54
Parcel Post ...	58,663	62,739	+ 6·95
Totals ...	5,719,137	5,910,893	—

B.—TELEGRAPHS.

The inland telegraph system in the Island is the property of the military authorities. The foreign cables belong entirely to the Eastern Telegraph Company.

Proposals have been made to connect Malta with Sicily by wireless telegraphy.

C.—TELEPHONES.

The Governor's Palaces, all Government Departments, Charitable Institutions, and Police Stations are connected by a telephone service, conducted by private enterprise; the mileage is 439½.

The Railway Department has a separate line connecting all the stations, and the Island of Gozo can be communicated with from the Auberge de Castille through the military telephone and signal system.

It appears advisable that the facilities for switching on from one system to the other should be developed, and that the Government should extend its own lines as rapidly as possible and adopt the military standard of efficiency in the lines and plant in use.

MILITARY FORCES AND EXPENDITURE.

A.—REGULAR FORCES.

The expenditure for the up-keep of the Regular Forces in this command, including the Royal Malta Artillery, is borne by the Imperial Government, and, in 1901, it amounted to £637,318 19*s.* 4*d.* The only contribution paid by this Island towards military defence is that fixed by Letters Patent of 1887, viz., £5,000.

B.—MILITIA.

The militia, which is regulated by Ordinance No. 5 of 1901 (which consolidates the previous Ordinances on the subject), is composed of two battalions of infantry and one company Royal Engineers' submarine miners, forming an establishment of 1,131 officers, non-commissioned officers, and men, each infantry battalion, and 62 non-commissioned officers and men, Royal Engineers' submarine miners.

This force is liable to be called out for 72 days' drill during the year, out of which 12 days in camp for the Royal Malta Regiment, and 120 days' training for the Royal Engineers' submarine miners, of whom 18 men are permanently employed.

The expenditure incurred in 1901 for the support of the force was £15,809 1*s*., of which £9,791 8*s*. 8*d*. for pay, &c., Royal Malta Regiment; £4,530 13*s*. 4*d*. for pay, &c., Royal Malta Regiment permanent staff; £1,269 6*s*. 10*d*. for pay, &c., Royal Engineers' submarine miners, and £218 3*s*. 9*d*. for staff of the same.

C.—VOLUNTEERS.

(None.)

D.—CONSTABULARY.

(None.)

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

The year 1901 may be considered to have been prosperous, especially for the working classes, who form the bulk of this community. Owing to important works undertaken by the Local Government for the extension of the drainage and for the increase of the water supply; by the military authorities in connection with the scheme of defence, such as the opening of new roads and the erection of additional barrack accommodation; and by the naval authorities for the construction of two large docks in the French Creek,—the demand for labour was in excess of the supply, hence wages rose. Compared with five years ago, an ordinary labourer can at present earn from 1*s*. 8*d*. to 2*s*. 6*d*., against 1*s*. 6*d*. to 2*s*. 2*d*. in 1897, and skilled labour commands from 3*s*. to 4*s*. 6*d*. a day, against 3*s*. to 3*s*. 4*d*., whilst fitters' wages range between 4*s*. and 5*s*. 6*d*., against 3*s*. 6*d*. to 5*s*. in 1897. This increase in the value of labour has caused a change in the economic conditions of the thrifty workmen of Malta, whose life is evidently easy and contented. The effect of this prosperity is noticed not only in the statistics of the Savings Bank, in which the yearly deposits have risen from £99,113 in 1897 to £120,109 in 1901, but also in the increase of marriages, in the large excess of births over deaths, and in the visible signs of comfort and cheerfulness observed in this class of the population.

MALTA, 1901.

The total expenditure incurred by the Government of Malta in public works, in the year under review, amounted to £101,849, of which £53,328 was for annually recurrent works, and £48,521 for works of an extraordinary nature. Among the latter, the most important are the following:—

	£
1. New drainage works	24,423
2. Do. (flushing drains by sea water)	4,833
3. Towards improving drainage works ...	1,997
4. Remodelling and constructing roads, streets, and moles, and up-keep of the same ...	26,051
5. Water-works	4,770
6. Renewing roof of the Palace armoury ...	2,414
7. Towards erection of a school at Sliema (cost of site)	2,500
8. Towards the construction of an electric light workship	580
9. Improving buildings of the charitable institutions	2,757
10. Improving public buildings, palaces, offices, stores, and gardens	12,808
11. Improving property yielding rent	4,534

RAILWAY.

The railway, which is administered by Government officials, continues to do its useful work without being a burden on the public revenue, all improvements on the same and all renewals being defrayed out of the profits realized after deducting interest on capital and working expenses.

The gross earnings for the year amounted to £8,226 10*s.* 1¾*d.*, as compared with £7,735 9*s.* 7½*d.* in 1900, an increase of £491 9*s.* 6¼*d.*; and the working expenses having been £5,922 12*s.* 5*d.*, against £6,159 8*s.* 3*d.*, a profit of £2,304 6*s.* 8¾*d.* was left, as against £1,576 1*s.* 4½*d.* in 1900.

The above profits were disposed of as follows:—

Interest on capital expended	£1,118	3	1
Fitting carriages and locomotives with flexible buffers	498	13	10
Providing copper firebox and brass tubes for locomotives	129	14	8
Fitting engine No. 5 with a four-wheeled bogie	389	12	11

The technical school attached to the Railway Department has also been enlarged to afford further accommodation for the

admission of additional apprentices, and more room for locomotive repairs. The number of apprentices trained in the school was 23 during the year, of whom four were employed in His Majesty's Dockyard and one on His Majesty's Hospital Ship "Maine."

Out of the profits of the railway, the following improvements are to be gradually effected as the funds will permit, viz., additional accommodation at the Attard and Birchircara Stations; heavier rails relaid on a portion of the line each year; level crossings bridged over, or under, and the addition of another locomotive engine and more carriages.

The following statement shows the progress of the railway since the year in which it was restarted as a Government concern on co-operative principles:—

—	1893.	1900.	1901.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1. Capital expended for the equipment of the railway.	14,653 8 8	39,213 19 9	39,363 17 0
2. Gross revenue	4,859 9 1	7,735 9 7½	8,226 19 1¼
3. Working expenses ...	3,862 18 1	6,159 8 3	5,922 12 5
4. Profit on working ...	966 11 0	1,576 1 4½	2,304 6 8¾
5. Number of passengers...	626,912	1,081,471	810,263

The principal events of political importance in 1901, as testifying to the loyalty and attachment of this community to the Throne of England, are those connected with the lamented death of Her Majesty Queen Victoria, the accession of His Majesty the King, and with the visit to these Islands of Their Royal Highnesses the Duke and Duchess of Cornwall and York.

The sad news of Her Majesty's death, though not unexpected after the announcement of her serious illness, was a shock to this loyal population, who associated her personality with every idea of power, justice, and humanity. On that melancholy occasion deep sympathy was expressed with His Majesty and the Royal Family by the Civil, Naval, Military, and Ecclesiastical Authorities, and by all the constituted bodies in the Island, in the name of the population.

The ceremony of proclaiming His Most Gracious Majesty King Edward VII. Liege Lord and Sovereign in and over the Island of Malta and its dependencies took place on the 28th January, 1901. The Proclamation was published at the Palace in

MALTA, 1901.

Valletta before a select assemblage, and was signed by His Excellency the Governor, His Grace the Archbishop Bishop of Malta, Rear Admiral Sir John Arbuthnot Fisher, K.C.B., Lord Congleton, C.B., Chief Justice Sir Joseph Carbone, K.C.M.G., Sir Gerald Strickland, K.C.M.G., Chief Secretary to Government, Dr. Fortunato Mizzi, representing the Elected Members, Baron Ugo Testaferrata Abela, representing the Maltese Nobility, Dr. Giovanni Messina, President of the Chamber of Commerce, and Dr. Oreste Grech Mifsud, President of the Chamber of Advocates.

The visit of Their Royal Highnesses the Duke and Duchess of Cornwall and York to these Islands offered another occasion to this population for showing that they are not behind any others in His Majesty's Dominions in sharing, together with the trials, the joys and triumphs of the Motherland. Their Royal Highnesses arrived here on the 25th of March, and were greeted by all classes of the community with a hearty welcome to these shores, due honour and homage was paid to them, and, through them, loyal fidelity and sincere devotion was expressed to the Throne, during their short but eventful visit.

With reference to Colonial Regulations, Nos. 283 and 284, His Excellency the Governor has now given instructions for the compilation and printing of a satisfactory inventory of the Palace furniture to include the Palace Armoury. It is hoped that publicity will be a lasting protection against the future loss of any of its contents. Owing to the renewal of the roof of the Palace Armoury, the collection of arms and armour had to be temporarily shifted elsewhere, pending the carrying out of this work.

In the financial year under review, orders were, by the Imperial Authorities, given to commence the construction of a breakwater on the Monarch shoal, which had been suggested in the Council of Government as far back as the 24th November, 1897.

An opinion is gaining ground that the climate of Malta has somewhat changed for the better, that the hot weather begins later and ends earlier, and that rain falls at periods of the year which used to be drier. This may be due to the Government having adopted the policy of systematically planting a number of trees every year.

The investment of capital by the local population in building small houses, flats, residences, and villas, still continues.

The standard of comfort of the people is being rapidly raised owing to greater contact with British subjects from other parts of the Empire, promoted by the great increase of the fleet and garrison. The imperial forces returned in the Census were

22,088. The presence of the garrison regiments with grown-up families, and the opportunities now enjoyed by non-commissioned officers, petty officers, and even by stokers in the navy to bring their families out to Malta, are producing social conditions under which Malta is ceasing to be merely a dependency, and becoming a Colony in a more proper sense of the word.

I have, &c.,

G. STRICKLAND,
Chief Secretary to Government.

His Excellency
Sir F. W. Grenfell, G.C.B., G.C.M.G.,
Governor of Malta,
&c., &c., &c.

LONDON:
PRINTED FOR HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE.
By DARLING & SON, Ltd., 34-40, Bacon Street, E.

1902.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 410.

MALTA.

REPORT FOR 1902-3.

(For Report for 1901, *see* No. 358.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.

December, 1903.

LONDON:
PRINTED FOR HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE,
By DARLING & SON, Ltd., 34-40, Bacon Street, E.

And to be purchased, either directly or through any Bookseller, from
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1903.

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COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other, reports relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
389	Sierra Leone	1902
390	British Honduras	"
391	Gambia	"
392	St. Helena	"
393	Hong Kong	"
394	Turks and Caicos Islands	"
395	Seychelles	"
396	Ceylon	"
397	Gold Coast	"
398	Barbados	1902–1903
399	Fiji	1902
400	Lagos	"
401	British Solomon Islands	1902–1903
402	Cocos-Keeling Islands	1903
403	St. Vincent	1902–1903
404	Grenada	1902
405	Southern Nigeria	"
406	Straits Settlements	"
407	Trinidad and Tobago	1902–1903
408	Basutoland	"
409	Northern Nigeria	1902

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
15	Canada	Legal Status of British North American Indians.
16	Miscellaneous Colonies ...	Medical Reports.
17	Gilbert and Ellice Islands ...	Report for 1896–1900.
18	Hong Kong	Operations in New Territory during 1900.
19	Miscellaneous Colonies ...	Medical Reports.
20	Weihaiwei	General Report.
21	Dominica	Report on Caribs.
22	Seychelles	Report on Para Rubber.
23	Dominica	Roads and Land Settlement.
24	Grenada	Land Settlement in Carriacou.
25	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague, 1903.

No. 410.

MALTA.

(For Report for 1901, *see* No. 358.)

GOVERNOR SIR C. M. CLARKE to MR. LYTTELTON.

The Palace, Valletta,
11th November, 1903.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit the Malta Blue Book for the year 1902-3, together with the report thereon by the Lieutenant-Governor and Chief Secretary to Government.

I have, &c.,
CHAS. M. CLARKE,
Governor.

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875 Wt 21109 12/1903 D & S 5 16139 A

Lieutenant-Governor's Office, Malta,

7th November, 1903.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to submit the following report on the Blue Book for the year 1902-3:—

I.—REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

(A.) REVENUE.

Total Revenue.

1. The revenue collected in 1902-3 from ordinary sources, exclusive of the value of stores issued, amounted to £445,065 18*s.* 8½*d.* This sum exceeded the Estimate by £26,570 4*s.* 2¼*d.*, (*See* Table I.) and the amount collected during the previous financial year by £31,968 7*s.* 9*d.* (*See* Table II.).

Revenue Estimated and Actual.

2. It will be seen from Table I. that the actual revenue exceeded the estimate under all the heads except four, and that the only head under which the collections fell short of the estimate by any considerable amount was that of Stamp Duties. This was due partly to a too sanguine estimate, and partly, it is believed, to evasion of some of the duties. Under the head of Customs, the amount collected exceeded the estimate by over £19,000 which is partly due to the fact that there were no data available on which an accurate forecast of the revenue derivable from the duties imposed by the Order in Council of the 26th September, 1901, could be made. The satisfactory excess of £5,489 under Post Office is largely due to the introduction of the penny postage.

Revenue for 1901-2 *and* 1902-3 *compared.*

3. A comparison of the revenue for 1902-3 with that of the previous year (Table II.) shows that there are increases under all the heads except five, the principal increases being under Customs, Licences, Court Fines, &c., Stamp Duty, Post Office and Rents-Urban.

Increases.

4. The increase under Customs is mainly due to the additional duties imposed by the Order in Council of 26th September, 1901, but is also partly due to increased consumption of dutiable articles. The increase under Licences, Court Fines, &c., is due to the issue of more licences, and to larger sales of contraband articles seized by the Customs Authorities,

Although the collections under Stamp Duty fell a good deal short of the estimate, the amount realized shows a satisfactory increase over that of the previous year. The increase under Post Office is mainly due to the reason mentioned in paragraph 2, and also to the general expansion of business.

5. Under the heads Railway and Electric Lighting there are small increases, but neither of these enterprises is likely to show any noticeable increase of revenue without a considerable outlay, in the case of the former for additional rolling stock, and of the latter for an extension of the plant, which is much needed. The increase under Rents-Urban is due to the recovery of an unusually large number of arrears.

Decreases.

6. The principal decreases are found under Harbour and Quarantine Dues, Fees and Reimbursements, Rents-Rural and Interest. The falling off under Harbour and Quarantine Dues is ascribed to a decrease in the number of steamers calling at Malta, and this again is probably due to the quarantine restrictions which were imposed in consequence of the existence of plague in Egypt during a considerable portion of the year. The decrease under Fees and Reimbursements is due to the fact that in the previous year there were extraordinary receipts under this head, and the decreases under Rents-Rural and rents on account of the charitable institutions are to be attributed to the change in the financial year, a considerable portion of the rents for 1902 having been collected before the 31st March. The falling off under Interest is due to the circumstance that the Savings Bank profits for two years were accounted for in the previous year, and that no profit of the Monte di Pietà was included in the accounts for 1902-3.

General Reserve Fund.

7. The amount of the Fund on the 1st April, 1902, was £21,029 16*s.* 5*d.*, and the expenditure charged to the Fund during the year was £13,365 4*s.* 5*d.*, leaving a balance, on the 1st April, 1903, of £7,664 12*s.* 0*d.* To this amount was added a sum of £443 15*s.* 11*d.*, representing the balance of revenue over expenditure in the estimates for the current year, bringing the available total up to £8,108 7*s.* 11*d.*, against which there were liabilities on the 1st April amounting to £3,433 9*s.* 2*d.* The nett available balance was, therefore, £4,674 18*s.* 9*d.*

Immovable Property Account.

8. The balance of this Fund on 1st April, 1902, was £19.974 0*s.* 11½*d.*, and on the 1st April, 1903, it stood at £24,083 6*s.* 9½*d.* The increase is due to purchase of land by the Admiralty.

Revenue for the last five years.

9. The following table shows the revenue collected during the last five years:—

Year.	Revenue.		
	£	s.	d.
1898	332,787	18	1
1899	354,265	15	2½
1900	356,758	6	10¾
1901	385,698	4	8
1902-3	445,065	18	8½

(B.) Expenditure.

Total Expenditure.

10. The total expenditure during the year (exclusive of expenditure out of the Immovable Property Account) was £439,080 0*s.* 0*d.*, which was made up as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
(*a.*) Personal Emoluments ...	146,348	1	2
(*b.*) Other charges	259,746	13	11½
(*c.*) Under Malta Revenue and General Purposes Order in Council, 1901	32,985	4	10½
	£439,080	0	0

The expenditure fell short of the estimate by £17,917 17*s.* 10*d.*, and exceeded that of the previous year by £10,927 6*s.* 2¾*d.*

Expenditure Estimated and Actual.

11. In Table III. will be found details of the estimated and actual expenditure under the various heads, showing that there were savings under all the heads except six. The only excesses of any importance are under Pensions, Miscellaneous Services and Water Works and Electric Lighting.

Expenditure for 1901–2 *and* 1902–3 *compared.*

12. Table IV. shows the expenditure for the year as compared with that for 1901-2.

Increases.

13. The principal increases appear under the heads of (*a*) Interest and Burthens, (*b*) Pensions, (*c*) Customs and Port Department, (*d*) Railway Department, (*e*) Public Health Department, (*f*) Education, (*g*) Elementary Schools, (*h*) Miscellaneous Services, (*i*) Water Works and Electric Lighting

Department, and (*j*) Public Works Annually Recurrent: and the increases may be attributed to the following causes:—

(*a*) To interest paid on additional investments of the Savings Bank;

(*b*) To new pensions granted during the year;

(*c*) To periodical increments of salaries and transfers of clerks;

(*d*) To greater consumption of coal and increase in the price of materials;

(*e*) To the transfer of the salary of the Chief Government Medical Officer from Head IV., Chief Secretary's Department, to this head; increased expenditure under transport and drainage; and employment of additional Sanitary Overseers;

(*f*) and (*g*) To increases of salary granted to the teaching staff under the new scheme;

(*h*) To larger payments for drawbacks on manufactured wheat exported; and articles of consumption supplied to the Army and Navy;

(*i*) To increased consumption of coal and heavier outlay for pumping;

(*j*) To necessary increases of maintenance votes.

Decreases.

14. The principal decreases occur under the following heads:—(*a*) Railway, Special Expenditure, (*b*) Technical School, (*c*) Legal Departments, (*d*) Post Office, (*e*) Public Works Extraordinary: and may be explained as follows:—

(*a*) By smaller expenditure on rolling stock;

(*b*) By the fact that in 1901 there were several unusual items of expenditure;

(*c*) By transfers of clerks; and reduction of expenditure for witnesses;

(*d*) By non-payment of international transit rates during the year;

(*e*) By want of funds for works.

Public Works Recurrent and Extraordinary.

15. The expenditure on Public Works during the year was as follows:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
From Revenue, Recurrent ...	58,038	12	5½
From Revenue, Extraordinary ...	18,610	18	1½
From General Reserve Fund ...	13,365	4	5
From Immovable Property Account	482	0	2
	£90,496	15	2

In addition to the above amount, a sum of £31,135 19*s.* 8½*d.* was charged during the year to the "Malta Revenue and General Purposes Order in Council, 1901," for the following works, viz.:—

Under Clause I., para. 1, *of the Order:*

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Schools	17	9	2
Drainage	27,684	0	1
Improvements in Central Hospital	1,165	5	3½
Roads	918	16	2½

Under Clause I., para. 2, *of the Order:*

Towards the construction of a new road between Porta Reale and the Maglio	1,297	19	2½
Converting into an Elementary School and a Police Station the premises lately held by the Eastern Telegraph Company	52	9	9
	£31,135	19	8½

Works carried out in 1902–3.

16. The following are the most important works carried out during the year:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Improving buildings, Charitable Institutions	4,645	9	8
Maintenance of public buildings, Palaces, Offices, Stores and Gardens	10,393	5	6
Maintenance of property yielding rent	3,539	16	7½
Remodelling and reconstructing roads, streets, moles, and upkeep of same	31,173	4	8
Water Works and Electric Lighting	5,656	11	3
Towards improving drainage works under Schedule "A."	1,081	6	4
New drainage works	211	19	1
New drainage works Schedule "B."	12,000	0	0
Repairing reservoir, Salita Castello, in Gozo	244	4	3
Making good damages caused to roads by heavy rains ...	2,947	15	2½
	£71,893	12	7

New Drainage Works under Schedule B.

17. The new drainage works are being steadily proceeded with. The expenditure from the date of commencement of these works in 1899 to the 31st March, 1903, amounted to £74,566 1*s.* 0*d.*, as follows:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
In 1899	2,996	6	6
In 1900	20,447	8	1
In 1901	24,423	16	10
In the 1st quarter of 1902 ...	8,067	3	2
In 1902-3	18,621	6	5
	£74,556	1	0

The above sum was distributed as follows:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
On Sliema Drainage	54,612	4	2½
On Rabato Intercepting Sewer...	12,610	11	9
On Curmi Street Sewer ...	7,333	5	0½

The above expenditure of £74,556 1*s.* 0*d.* has been accounted for as follows:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*
Imperial contributions received, viz.:—						
5 per cent. on commencement of the work	4,108	0	0			
10 per cent. payable when half the work is completed ...	8,217	0	0			
10 per cent. payable on completion of "Rabato Intercepting Sewer" and "Curmi Street Sewer"	2,088	0	0			
				14,413	0	0
Charged to Revenue under "Malta Revenue and General Purposes Order in Council, 1901":—						
In 1901	2,712	14	9½			
In March, 1902 ...	17,746	6	1½			
In 1902-3	20,606	19	2¾			
				41,066	0	1¾
Charged to General Reserve Fund in June, 1902				12,000	0	0
Charged to General Revenue in 1902-3...				7,077	0	10¼
				£74,556	1	0

Assets and Liabilities.

18. The Assets of the Government Treasury on the 31st March, 1902, amounted to £738,574 19*s.* 10½*d.*, and the Liabilities to £734,986 3*s.* 1¼*d.*, the excess of Assets over Liabilities being £3,588 16*s.* 9¼*d.*

On the 31st March, 1903, the Assets were £779,578 3*s.* 10¾*d.*, and the Liabilities £756,638 4*s.* 0*d.*, leaving a surplus in favour of the Treasury of £22,939 19*s.* 10¾*d.*

Details of the Assets and Liabilities as they stood on the 31st March, 1903, are given in Table V.

Public Debt.

"*Massa Frumentaria.*"

19. Properly speaking Malta has no public debt. Interest at 2½ per cent. is, however, paid by the Government on a sum of £79,168 5*s.* 2¾*d.* representing certain capital invested in the "Massa Frumentaria"; but the holders of the scrip have no right to claim payment of the Capital.

The Capital amount as originally assessed in 1819 was £102,533 14*s.* 3*d.* Of this £21,394 1*s.* 8*d.* was bought in by the Government, and £1,971 7*s.* 4¼*d.* has otherwise fallen in. The interest paid in 1902-3 was £1,840 0*s.* 6*d.*

Currency.

Rates of Exchange.

20. There is nothing that calls for special remark under this head. The Bank rates of exchange for cheques and bills on London and France remained unaltered. The rate of exchange on Italy ranged between 25·15 and 25·60, the average rate for the year being 25·20.

Coin in Circulation.

The amount of British coin in circulation in Malta fluctuates according to the sums imported and exported, and the requirements of the Fleet. It is at present roughly calculated at £520,000, distributed as follows: £420,000 sovereigns; £15,000 half sovereigns; and £85,000 in silver coin. The note circulation, which is restricted to the notes of two of the local banks, "The Anglo-Maltese Bank" and "The Banco di Malta," is calculated to be now reduced to about £15,000.

Imports and Exports.

Imports.

21. The value of the total Imports of dutiable goods in the year 1902-3 was £6,562,798, as against £10,079,231 in 1901-2, there being a decrease of £3,516,433.

Decreases.

The items under which the principal decreases are found are the following:—

	£
Beer	78,443
Bullocks	23,280
Wheat	1,393,922
Indian Corn	305,539
Barley	990,145
Inferior Grain	605,844

Of the total Imports, £1,261,650 is the value of goods actually landed for local consumption, against £1,132,204 in 1901-2, and £5,301,148 the value of cargoes of dutiable goods re-exported in the same bottoms, as against £8,947,027 in the previous year.

The following table shows the total value of Imports for each of the five years preceding 1902-3, distinguishing the countries from which the Imports came, together with their average compared with the value of the Imports of that year.

Year.	Total.	United Kingdom.	British Colonies.	H.M.'s Ships.	Foreign Countries.
	£	£	£	£	£
1897	10,895,639	150,473	92,429	358	10,652,379
1898	10,025,131	203,517	519,608	485	9,301,521
1899	6,668,961	297,830	408,685	2,255	5,960,191
1900	7,434,289	305,010	89,208	987	7,039,084
1901-2	10,079,231	426,404	139,237	2,083	9,511,507
Average of five years	9,020,650	276,647	249,833	1,234	8,492,936
1902-3	6,562,798	268,040	297,853	536	5,996,369
Above average ...	—	—	48,020	—	—
Below average ...	2,457,852	8,607	—	698	2,496,567

The above figures show that, whilst the total value of the Imports in 1902-3 is greatly below the average of the last five years, the Imports from British ports taken together show a slight increase, and that the total loss in value is on the Imports from foreign countries.

Articles Imported for Local Consumption.

22. Of the total imports landed for local consumption £268,040 were from the United Kingdom, £47,483 from British colonies, and £946,127 from foreign countries.

The principal imports from the United Kingdom were:—

Beer, £96,591; wheat, £15,503; manufactured grain, £106,897; cotton seed oil, £3,386; potatoes, £10,424; spirits, £8,618; superior wine, £2,634; sugar, £7,011; and tobacco, £14,936.

From the British Colonies:—

Beef and mutton, £43,581; and wheat, £3,176.

From Foreign Countries:—

Cattle, £186,211; sheep, £3,028; horses, £6,663; wheat, £138,775; barley, £8,914; saggina, £17,261; manufactured wheat, £45,923; olive oil, £71,943; cotton seed oil, £32,157; potatoes, £12,997; pulse, £90,713; seeds, £40,320; spirits, £7,206; wine (common), £140,405; petroleum, £30,106; sugar, £89,229; and tobacco, £20,989.

Value.

23. The statistical returns furnished by the Customs Department show that the customs dues collected during the year 1902-3 on the dutiable goods landed for local consumption amounted to £262,099 14*s.* 11*d.*, or an increase of £31,945 6*s.* 0*d.* over the preceding twelve months.

Duties under Order in Council of 26th September, 1901.

The increase due to the alterations made in the Customs Tariff by Order in Council of 1901, which came in force on the 7th October of that year, was £30,507 17*s.* 10*d.* during the year under review, and £11,526 14*s.* 1*d.* in 1901-2; so that, out of the above total increase of £31,945 6*s.* 0*d.*, £18,981 3*s.* 9*d.* represents the increase on the amount received under the Order in Council, and £12,964 2*s.* 3*d.* the increase due to other causes.

The following table gives a list of the dutiable articles imported for local consumption in 1902-03, together with the amount of duty collected on each article, comparing the figures with those of the preceding year, 1901-02.

Articles.	1901–2.	1902–3.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Wheat	31,034 11 9	37,486 9 2	6,451 17 5	—
Indian Corn	83 12 1	208 19 0	125 6 11	—
Barley	128 0 0	759 12 6	631 12 6	—
Saggina	1,892 6 7	1,588 16 2	—	303 10 5
Inferior Grain	24 6 3	29 10 7	5 4 4	—
Manufactured Grain	53,937 8 5	50,269 18 10	—	3,667 9 7
Refuse Grain	1,186 14 9	3 15 4	—	1,182 19 5
Refuse Manufactured Grain	16 19 10	10 12 9	—	6 7 1
Petroleum	1,277 10 2	4,636 11 10	3,359 1 8	—
Wine	42,622 18 3	50,746 17 10	8,123 19 7	—
Spirits	33,326 16 9	34,696 6 11	1,369 10 2	—
Beer	26,214 10 8	31,840 11 8	5,626 1 0	—
Vinegar	58 17 2	83 9 5	24 12 3	—
Sugar	3,306 2 7	5,336 19 0	2,030 16 5	—
Bullocks	15,369 7 6	15,183 18 1	—	185 9 5
Imported Meat	3,166 14 8	6,451 10 7	3,284 15 11	—
Sheep	361 7 8	416 9 0	55 1 4	—
Horses	499 0 0	580 0 0	81 0 0	—
Mules	56 0 0	42 0 0	—	14 0 0
Tobacco	1,478 7 11	6,769 16 3	5,290 18 4	—
Oil (Olive)	700 0 0	832 17 3	132 17 3	—
Oil (Cotton)	2,130 10 0	2,259 11 6	129 1 6	—
Potatoes	3,320 6 9	3,318 7 10	—	1 18 11
Pulse	5,087 10 4	5,723 15 11	636 5 7	—
Seeds	2,873 18 10	2,822 17 6	—	51 1 4
Total	230,154 8 11	262,099 14 11	37,358 2 2	5,412 16 2

Wheat and Flour.

24. The progressive increase in the importation of manufactured grain, and the corresponding decrease in the importation of wheat, which was noticed in previous years did not continue in 1902-3. There was, in fact, an increase of £6,451 17*s.* 5*d.* on wheat, against a decrease of £3,434 1*s.* 0*d.* in 1901; and a decrease of £3,667 9*s.* 7*d.* on manufactured grain in 1902-3, against an increase of £3,494 6*s.* 2*d.* in the previous year.

This is due to the fact that the price of wheat was lower, whilst the improvements which have lately been introduced in the local mills enabled the owners thereof to produce flour of a finer sort, which had previously to be imported.

The increase in the quantity of wheat imported for consumption during the year, as compared with that imported during the previous year, amounted to 12,904 Imperial quarters, whilst the decrease on manufactured grain amounted to cantars 12224·80, corresponding to 5,821 Imperial quarters of wheat.

It is therefore clear that the decrease in the importation of manufactured grain was made good by the importation of wheat to the extent of 5,821 Imperial quarters, leaving 7,083 Imperial quarters to be accounted for by other causes, such as the ordinary increase of the population, the presence of an extraordinary number of visitors and of men-of-war in the harbour, the improvement in the economic condition of the population and the quantities of manufactured wheat re-exported on payment of a refund of duty which has exceeded that exported in previous years.

Other Grains, &c.

25.—*Indian Corn, Barley, Saggina, Inferior and Refuse Grain, Pulse* and *Seeds.* There was an increase of £1,398 9*s.* 4*d.* on Indian corn, barley, inferior grain and pulse; and a decrease of £1,543 18*s.* 3*d.* on saggina, refuse grain, refuse manufactured grain and seeds.

The actual decrease on the above articles, which are used as food for animals, is therefore £145 8*s.* 11*d.*, and is accounted for by the consumption during the year of a portion of a large consignment of refuse wheat paid for in the period of 1901-2.

Other Imports.

Bullocks: Decrease £285 9*s.* 5*d.*; *Sheep:* Increase £55 1*s.* 4*d.* In view of the rise in price of Odessa bullocks, the importation of cattle from Russia was temporarily suspended, the

deficiency being made good by an increase in the importation of Barbary and other bullocks which weigh less.

Meat: Increase £3,284 15*s.* 11*d.* This was derived from frozen meat which is imported for the service of the Imperial Government, and on which drawback is subsequently claimed and paid.

Oil—Olive: Increase £132 17*s.* 3*d.*; *Cotton:* Increase £129 1*s.* 6*d.* Due to greater consumption consequent on a reduction in the price of the articles which was brought about by larger importation of olive oil from Barbary and Spain and of cotton seed oil from America.

Petroleum and *Tobacco:* The increase of £3,359 1*s.* 8*d.* on petroleum and of £5,290 18*s.* 4*d.* on tobacco is to be ascribed to the fact that the new duties on those articles were underestimated, and also to the fact that large quantities of petroleum and tobacco, which had been imported free of duty before the Order in Council of 1901, had been gradually disposed of and were replaced by fresh importations.

Sugar: Increase £2,030 16*s.* 5*d.* The first of the reasons given for the increase of petroleum and tobacco applies equally to sugar. Moreover, as there was a prospect of a fall in the price of that commodity a short time before the imposition of the new duty, the local merchants did not purchase large stocks in anticipation of the duty, and when it was imposed, the price fell so low that many were induced to import comparatively large quantities of sugar notwithstanding the duty.

It thus happened that the amount received on sugar during last year was only £5,336 19*s.* 0*d.*, whilst under ordinary circumstances it should have been, at least, double that received during the preceding six months which amounted to £3,306 2*s.* 7*d.*

Spirits: The increase of £1,369 10*s.* 2*d.* in the duty collected on spirits is principally due to the fact that the spirit imported in 1900 in anticipation of the increase in the rate of duty was practically exhausted at the beginning of the last financial year.

Wine and *Beer:* Increase £8,123 19*s.* 7*d.* and £5,626 1*s.* 0*d.* respectively. Of the increase on wine, £5,541 12*s.* 3*d.* is due to the new duty levied on that article and £2,582 7*s.* 4*d.* may be accounted for by the low price of the article consequent on large importations from Spain and Greece, by the ordinary increase of the population, and by the improvement in the economic condition of the labouring classes. Of the increase on beer, £2,758 15*s.* 1*d.* was derived from the new duty and £2,867 5*s.* 11*d.* is attributable to a gradually increasing consumption of this beverage by the lower classes and to the

presence of a large number of men-of-war in the Island during the greater part of the year.

EXPORTS.

Returns not Complete.

26. There being no Statistical Department and no export duty in Malta, the figures given below refer only to articles subject to import duty which were exported in the same vessels, or from bond, or were transhipped.

The total exports in 1902-3, exclusive of local produce, amounted to £5,349,576 against £8,947,027 in the previous year, a decrease of £3,597,451.

Of the total exports the sum of £5,229,343 is the value of whole cargoes carried in ships which merely touched at this port and proceeded, and £120,233 the value of the exports from portions of cargoes which were actually landed.

The total exports for the last five years are as follows:—

Year.	Total.	United Kingdom.	British Possessions.	H.M.'s Ships.	Foreign Countries.
	£	£	£	£	£
1898	9,379,140	2,088,589	1,408,986	13,013	5,868,552
1899	5,449,501	919,262	617,563	9,924	3,902,812
1900	6,471,567	1,100,924	814,929	7,716	4,547,998
1901-2	8,947,027	1,598,887	1,385,708	17,428	5,945,004
1902-3	5,349,576	1,444,868	758,835	21,563	3,124,310

Exports to United Kingdom.

The principal exports to the United Kingdom in 1902-3 were: wheat, valued at £1,164,942; Indian corn, £113,156; barley, £151,146; and inferior grain, £15,000; all of which goods proceeded in the same vessels in which they were imported.

The same articles, together with beer, valued at £1,079; horses, £456; manufactured grain, £10,186; pulse, £18,750; olive oil, £18,808; spirits, £2,781; wine, £2,400; sugar, £36,180; and tobacco, valued at £10,906, were the chief exports to foreign countries.

Local Produce.

The exports of local produce cannot be exactly stated, but the following articles are reported by local shipping agents to have been exported in 1902-3 in steam vessels only, no

reliable information being obtainable respecting the quantities exported in other craft:—

Potatoes, Cantars	133,855 = Cwts.	209,148;
Onions, Cantars,	5,284 = Cwts.	8,256;
Cumin Seed, Cantars	3,456 = Cwts.	5,400;
Oranges, dozen	36,320;	
Vegetables, Cantars	6,300 = Cwts.	10,625;
Goats, Number	1,063;	
Cotton goods of local manufacture Maltese canes	210,764;	

Stone, 61,751 slabs; 2,525 blocks; 450 tons in blocks; and 101 packages of stone-work.

The above-mentioned stone was exported as follows:—

450 tons in blocks, and 500 slabs to Italy;

300 slabs to Tunis;

20 packages of stone-work and 25,051 slabs to Greece;

1,841 blocks and 21,700 slabs to Turkey;

14,200 slabs to Egypt;

76 packages and 684 blocks to Holland; and

5 packages of stone work to Aden.

AGRICULTURE.

Area of Land under Cultivation.

27. There was a slight increase in the area of cultivated land, the total number of acres returned as under crops or fruit-trees being 38,675 acres, as against 38,545 in last year's return.

Number of Holdings, Tenure, &c.

28. The number of holdings remained stationary at about 10,000, with an average extent of four acres per holding. Most of the land is held on short leases of four or eight years and there was no noticeable rise in rents during the year, although crops have, during the last two years, been more abundant than usual.

Crops.

29. The cereals most commonly grown are: wheat, barley, and wheat and barley mixed ("Mischiato"). The area planted with cereals was 13,419 acres, which is over one-third of the whole cultivated area. All wheat grown in the Islands is

consumed locally. It is second grade, and is inferior in quality to that imported from the Black Sea, the weight of which is always over 480 lbs. per Imperial quarter. A local variety ("Tomnia") which is extensively grown, with proper cultivation and careful selection of the seed, may give a produce of 32 bushels per acre, of a weight from 65 to 66 lbs. per bushel.

Barley is cultivated on a large scale, nearly two-thirds of the crop being cut green and used for forage during the winter months. The grain of the remaining third is consumed by animals, especially horses.

"Mischiato," which is used as a food-stuff is grown in Gozo and in certain poor and out-of-the-way districts of Malta.

The relatively high winter mean temperature and the calcareous nature of the soil, are favourable to the growth of leguminous crops, the chief of which is: the Maltese clover (Hedysarum coronarium) which is extensively used for forage. Broad beans, peas, vetches and other varieties of pulse are grown on a more limited scale, and are used both for human food and fodder for animals.

The area planted with potatoes was about 4,100 acres. The total crop was below the average, the total yield being 193,640 cwts. About 36,000 bags containing two cwt. each were imported during the year, as against 41,978 in 1901-2.

The white round "Scotch Champion" and the kidney "Magnum Bonum" are the kinds which find most favour with the farmers. The "Early Rose" and another white round variety ("Fina") are planted for the summer crop. The Irish imported seed sells at a price varying from 8*s*. 4*d*. to 10*s*. and sometimes 12*s*. 6*d*. per cantar of 175 lbs.

The early crop was poor but the late one was abundant.

Onions were sparingly grown last year; the crops were good, and the market price of 6*s*. 8*d*. per cantar was the highest realized during the last ten years.

Cumin-seed was also a success, but the crop being in excess of the demand, the market price was kept low and some of the produce remained unsold.

The orange-growing industry recovered somewhat from the depression under which it laboured during the last ten years, the ravages of the scale insects and the fruit-fly having been less severe than in the previous years. Although the Maltese orange no longer holds the place that it used to, it is believed that with better prices and greater care of the trees, it will hold its own in the market.

Other fruit-trees.—There is a general decrease in number of pomegranate, peach, pear, plum, medlar, fig, prickly pear, carob, olive and mulberry trees owing to the ravages of the fruit-fly. Many of the trees which did not give remunerative produce, were left uncared for until they died, and were

not replaced by new ones. The rosaceous trees (stone-fruits) have suffered much, both from the fly and from the trunk being bored by the cerambyx.

The cultivation of the grape-vine is steadily gaining ground. Great progress in the wine-producing industry has been made of late, and it is hoped that when it is recognised that wines of good quality such as the Gomerino wines can be produced in Malta the number of wine-growers will increase.

Up to last year the cotton crop continued to be an unimportant one. It is only grown on lands best suited for the purpose, and the produce is used locally. In view, however, of the threatened cotton-famine it is believed that the area under this crop will, in future, be much increased.

To meet the requirements of the ever-increasing number of animals the area under forage is expanding. The Maltese clover (sulla) is extensively cultivated, and covers nearly one-third of the whole arable land. Next to the clover is the caterpillar plant, and barley cut green. Attempts are being made to use as forage the stems of the prickly pear and the fenugreek. It is doubtful, however, whether either of these will ever have the same value as clover.

Miscellaneous.

30. The honey produced locally is very good and its production might be much increased by the adoption of rational and modern methods of bee-rearing.

The making of elaterium from the cultivated plant (Ecballium Elaterium) was not successful on account of the insufficient demand for, and low price of, the drug.

The planting of Canaigre and the Sisal plant is still in the experimental stage.

Live Stock.

31. For sanitary purposes owners of animals of the equine, bovine and ovine classes are by law required to return every week the number of head owned by them. This makes the returns of live-stock fairly accurate. Compared with last year, the returns show a slight diminution in the number of horses, mules and asses, and an increase in that of horned cattle, sheep, goats and pigs.

The number of head of live-stock when compared with the whole population, including the garrison, gives the following proportions: equines, 1 to every 20 persons; bovines, 1 to every 26 persons; ovines, one sheep and one goat to every 12 persons; swine, 1 to every 50 persons.

Horses, mules and asses are principally used for the transport of persons and goods. Most of the horned cattle are kept

in pens to fatten and furnish fresh meat, the rest being used for agricultural work. Milch cows are few in number, nearly all the fresh milk being furnished by the goat, which is of a good breed, the best specimens being able to furnish on an average from five to six pints of milk per diem. The milk derived from sheep is all turned into cheese.

BOTANIC STATIONS.

Botanic Gardens.

32. Besides the botanic garden annexed to the University and under the control of the Education Department, there are a model farm worked by the Società Economico Agraria and a Government Experimental Farm.

Full particulars on the origin, growth and working of the Botanic Garden were published last year, in the Journal of the Royal Horticultural Society, December, 1902.

Experimental Farm.

The experimental farm was only started in January last and results of the experiments tried are not yet forthcoming.

SHIPPING.

33. As the shipping returns in this Blue Book deal with the figures for the period from 1st April, 1902, to the 31st March, 1903, and those given in the last report were for the calendar year, 1901, it has been thought advisable to give the figures for the twelve months preceding the 1st April, 1902, in order that an exact comparison may be made between the last two years.

Vessels Entered and Cleared.

The following Return shows the numbers and tonnage of steamers and sailing vessels entered and cleared during the year from the 1st April, 1901, to the 31st March, 1902, and the year from 1st April, 1902, to 31st March, 1903.

Year.	Steamers.				Sailing Vessels.				Totals.	
	Entered.		Cleared.		Entered.		Cleared.			
	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.
1901–2	2,564	3,624,482	2,570	3,628,125	1,366	68,770	1,352	67,580	7,852	7,389,957
1902–3	2,367	3,460,160	2,367	3,459,966	1,330	70,048	1,335	70,140	7,399	7,060,314
Increase in 1902–3	—	—	—	—	—	1,278	—	—	—	—
Decrease in 1902–3	197	184,322	203	168,159	36	—	17	2,560	453	328,643

The above shows a falling off in the number of both steamers and sailing vessels entered and cleared during the year under review. The decrease in the number of steamers, 197, of which 168 are British and 29 Foreign, is probably partly due to the quarantine restrictions which were in force during the greater part of the year, but it may also be attributed to the extension of the triple-expansion system of engines, which enables steamers to travel greater distances without coaling, the lower price of coal in other ports, the suspension of the importation of cattle from Odessa, and the recent establishment of direct lines of communication between this port and America by large steamers carrying cargoes of goods which were formerly imported through England.

Tonnage.

The next Table shows the tonnage of British and Foreign shipping which entered and cleared in 1902-3 with cargoes, compared with the corresponding figures for 1901-2.

	1902–3.		1901–2.		Totals.	
	British.	Foreign	British.	Foreign.	1902–3.	1901–2.
Entered ...	2,346,832	1,101,096	2,503,610	1,072,841	3,447,928	3,576,451
Cleared ...	2,112,306	1,032,006	2,286,081	1,030,772	3,144,312	3,316,853
Total...	4,459,138	2,133,102	4,789,691	2,103,613	6,592,240	6,893,304

It appears from the foregoing table that the general movement of shipping with cargo in 1902-3, as distinguished from vessels in ballast, gave a total of 6,592,240 register tons, against 6,893,304 tons in 1901-2, or a decrease of 301,064 tons, and that the decrease is entirely in British tonnage whilst foreign shipping has improved by 29,489 tons. The decrease in British tonnage is stated to be due to the fact that outward-bound steamers can now proceed to Port Said, without calling at Malta for coal, and that homeward-bound steamers coal at Algiers because the price of coal is lower.

(The total shipping inwards and outwards for the last five years is given below):—

Year.	Inwards.		Outwards.	
	Number.	Tonnage.	Number.	Tonnage.
1898	3,890	3,563,728	3,874	3,581,993
1899	3,560	3,297,712	3,580	3,292,942
1900	3,814	3,538,088	3,801	3,531,542
1901–2	3,930	3,693,252	3,922	3,695,705
1902–3	3,697	3,530,208	3,702	3,530,106

LEGISLATION.

34. The Council met 27 times during the period between the 1st of April, 1902 and the 31st March, 1903, and passed six Ordinances. Of these Ordinances only No. 1 is of sufficient importance to require notice in this report, two of the others being Ordinances of Appropriation, and three Acts for exempting religious bodies from the obligation of selling landed property which, according to Proclamation No. XXIII, of 25th June, 1822, they are bound to sell unless exempted by means of a legislative act.

Ordinance No. I of 1903.

Ordinance No. 1 amends certain provisions of the Criminal Laws as to the interpretation of which doubts had arisen. The law, as now amended, extends to the Bishop of Gozo the same exemption from criminal action as has always been secured to the Archbishop, Bishop of Malta.

It makes an attempt to corrupt a public officer a punishable offence; and provides for the punishment of lepers who escape from the Leper Asylum. This became necessary in view of the fact that several escapes have taken place in spite of the presence of police guard in the grounds.

The Ordinance also provides that in cases of crimes within the jurisdiction of the Court of Judicial Police, in which criminal proceedings cannot be instituted except on the complaint of the party injured or damaged, if not commenced by the injured or offended party within four days from the offence; that when a crime, for which proceedings cannot be instituted except on the complaint of the party who has sustained damage or has been hurt, has been committed with public violence or concurrently with another offence which affects public order, proceedings may be instituted by the police; and that if when, at the end of an enquiry or of a case, it appears that no proceedings ought to have been instituted except on the complaint of the party injured or damaged by the offence, the Court of Judicial Police shall proceed to give judgment, unless such party appears before the Court to renounce his right to institute proceedings.

Other provisions of the law extend the power of the Court of Criminal Jurisdiction to grant provisional liberty on bail to persons arrested for crimes or contraventions.

Food and Drugs Bill.

35. A considerable portion of the time of the Council was devoted to the discussion in Committee of a Bill to amend and consolidate the laws concerning food and drugs, but owing

to the determined and unreasonable opposition of the Elected Members to this most useful and necessary measure, much time was wasted and little progress had been made with the Bill when the Council was adjourned. The Bill will be re-introduced during the next session of the Council.

EDUCATION.

Percentage of Progress in Education.

36. The returns of the Census taken in 1901 and published this year show that the percentage of progress of education in Malta was much higher than the percentage of the increase in the population. Whilst the Maltese population five years of age and upwards increased during the decade 12·8 per cent., the number of persons who could read increased 36·8 per cent., and the number of those who could write increased 35·1 per cent.

The number of persons possessing a knowledge of English increased 37·5 per cent.; and the number of those possessing a knowledge of Italian increased 7·5 per cent.

The number of persons able to read and write, and to speak, read and write English increased 48·7 per cent., and the number of those possessing a corresponding knowledge of Italian increased 13·6 per cent.

The number of persons able to read Maltese increased 43·6 per cent.

Educational Establishments.

37. Besides an Education Department, administered by the Government, comprising the University, the Lyceum, two Secondary Schools, a Technical School, 97 Elementary Day Schools, 33 Night Schools and a training school for the instruction of assistant teachers, there are in Malta and Gozo 115 private schools and colleges, which were attended, in 1902-3, by 3,819 scholars of whom 1,973 were males and 1,846 females.

Scholastic Year.

38. The scholastic year in the Government educational establishments begins on the 1st October and ends on the 31st July. The returns are therefore one year behind those of other Departments.

UNIVERSITY.

39. In 1902-3 the University was attended by 105 students, against 116 in the previous year, as shown in the following table:—

Percentage of Attendances.

University.	Scholastic Year.			
	1900-1.		1901-2.	
	Percentage.	No. of Students.	Percentage.	No. of Students.
Faculty of Theology ...	92	23	78	26
Faculty of Law ...	87	26	86	9
Faculty of Medicine ...	91	23	87	4
Faculty of Literature and Science	85	38	81	66
Lyceum	87	413	85	514
Young Ladies' Secondary School	93	140	86	161

MATRICULATION EXAMINATION.

40. At the yearly Matriculation Examination in 1902, out of 53 candidates examined, 25 were successful; in 1901, 27 out of 39.

ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING.

41. A triennial course of Electrical Engineering was started in April, 1902, under the tuition of Mr. W. F. Nixon, A.R.C.Sc., B.Sc. (London). It was attended at first by upwards of 40 persons of different conditions, viz.: officers in the army, royal engineers, clerks, surveyors, sanitary engineers, and others.

LABORATORY.

42. On the recommendation of the Senate of the University of London, after being satisfied of the accommodation provided and the extent to which bacteriology, hygiene and chemistry are treated in the laboratory attached to the University of Malta, His Majesty's Privy Council last year approved the laboratory as a place from which the University of London may receive certificates for the Degree of M.D. in State Medicine.

LYCEUM.

43. In 1902, the Lyceum was attended by 442 students against 443 in 1901 and the percentage of attendance was 87 as against 85 in 1901.

Admission to this institution is by examination held once a year. The number of students admitted during the year was 78 as against 81 in the previous year.

Secondary School for Girls, Valletta.

44. The attendance in 1902 was 161 against 140 in 1901.

Oxford Local Examinations.

45. 15 candidates from this school entered for the Oxford Local Examination held in July last. Of the "Senior" candidates (2), one passed, was placed fourth on the Malta list of merit and obtained the title of "Associate of Arts," the other failed. All the "Junior" candidates (5), passed; four obtained high places in the local order of merit and carried off among them two Government prizes (£9 and £6), three certificates and one "Pass" (over-age) certificate. Six out of eight "Preliminary" candidates passed, and won among them three Government prizes (£6, £4 and £1), five certificates and one "Pass" (over-age) certificate. One "Preliminary" candidate failed and another was absent.

Secondary School for Boys, Gozo.

46. The other secondary school, at Gozo, is for boys. Admission in this school is by examination which is held biennially, and the course extends over four years. The attendance in 1902 was 48 against 25 in 1901.

Technical School.

47. The Technical and Manual School is attended by young men, who are taught the arts of drawing, modelling in clay, plaster-casting, stucco-work, cabinet-making and wood-carving. The school was attended by 12 youths in 1902. The attendance is voluntary and no fees are paid. The results are not very encouraging.

Choice of Language in University and Lyceum.

48. By a Government notice, issued on the 17th January, 1902, parents of students in the University and the Lyceum were empowered to declare whether their sons should be examined in English literature or language, in Italian literature or language, or in both literatures or languages. Conformably to the same notice, in the case of both English and Italian being selected, the candidate was allowed to count towards his aggregate the number of marks gained by him in only one of the two languages, whichever happened to be the highest: and students passing in one literature or language (English or Italian) were promoted as if they had passed in both literature or languages.

By a subsequent notice the above rules respecting marks were cancelled and the following substituted therefor: "In the case of students examined in both languages or literatures the marks obtained in each language or literature will be counted towards the aggregate."

The above Regulations apply also to the Matriculation, and Lyceum Entrance, Examinations.

In the case of University students the choice in literature in 1902, was as follows:—

English only, 0; Italian only, 11; English and Italian, 8.

In 1901, it was:—

English only, 1; Italian only, 1; English and Italian, 15.

In the case of Lyceum students, in 1902, English only was selected by four students out of 379; and English and Italian by all the others. In 1901, English only was selected by six students out of 348, and English and Italian by all the others.

Expenditure.

49. The expenditure during the financial year 1902-3 in respect of the above institutions, including the Education Office, but exclusive of minor works and repairs in the buildings, was £9,388 7*s.* 9*d.*, against £8,086 7*s.* 10*d.* in 1901-2 as detailed below:—

—	1902–3.			1901–2.		
	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*
Education Office	1,057	0	2	1,048	12	4
University	3,935	6	5	3,752	13	10
Lyceum	3,031	11	3	2,134	11	9
Secondary Schools	876	11	7	697	13	3
Technical and Manual School	250	5	0	216	14	8
Messenger's Establishment, Stationery and Transport.	237	13	4	236	2	0
Total	9,388	7	9	8,086	7	10

Calculated on the above expenditure, and on the attendance, the cost of each student in 1902-3 was £12 2*s.* 7*d.*, against £10 19*s.* 9*d.* in 1901-2.

Elementary Schools.

General Remarks.

50. Elementary instruction in Malta is steadily improving through the sustained endeavour of the Government to raise the standard of efficiency in the system of education.

51. Ameliorations in school-life have lately been effected by the building of new and sanitary school-houses and the enlargement and improvement of the existing ones. The Government, however, has not as yet overtaken the demand for school accommodation. There are, in fact, 4,462 children still vainly seeking admission, an increase of 149 over the number of applicants in 1901.

52. The following information is gathered from the report of the Inspector of elementary schools on the working of his department in 1902-3.

Day-Schools.

The number of day-schools in 1902-3 was 97 as in the previous year, distributed as follows:—

—	Malta.	Gozo.	Total.
Boys	29	9	38
Girls	31	9	40
Infants	4	2	6
Drawing (Boys)	5	0	5
Drawing (Girls)	4	0	4
Wood-carving	3	0	3
Sunday School (Secondary Instruction)	1	0	1
Total	77	20	97

The number of infant classes rose from 14 in 1901 to 25 in 1902-3, new classes having been opened at seven villages in Malta and at five in Gozo; and an additional night-school was opened in April, 1902, on trial for one year.

Number of Admissions.

The number of children admitted during the year was 6,000, as against 5,682 in 1901-2; and the number of those who left school during the same period was 4,847 as compared with 5,144 in 1901-2, a decrease of 297 which is probably due to the fact that the schools had resumed their normal condition after the wholesale and unprecedented withdrawal of children by their parents in 1901.

Attendance Day-schools.

The attendance in the day-schools was 14,799 after the annual examinations, as against 14,878 in the previous year, while on the 1st September, which is usually considered as the beginning of the scholastic year, the numbers were 14,628, as compared with 14,441 on the corresponding date in 1901.

The highest attendance was 15,594 and the lowest 12,242.

The percentage of the average annual attendance to the average annual enrolment was 84·6, as against 83·5 in the previous year.

Night-Schools.

53. The night-schools were attended by 1,887 pupils, as compared with 1,886 in 1901-2; and the average annual attendance was 924 or 59·0 per cent. on the average annual enrolment of 1,566, against 59·9 in 1901-2.

Total

54. The total attendance of both day and night schools at the beginning of the scholastic year was 16,515 against 15,789 in 1901-2; and the average enrolment 15,227 in 1902-3 and 14,312 in 1901-2; the average attendance being 12,475, against 11,685 in 1901-2, or a percentage of 81·9 in 1902-3 against 81·6 in the previous year. These figures are considered to be satisfactory and can bear comparison with those obtained in similar schools abroad.

Choice of Secondary Language of Instruction.

55. In the case of pupils attending the III Standard where a choice is to be made of the secondary language of instruction, the selection made by the parents or guardians in Malta and Gozo was for 3,068 pupils of both sexes, as against 2,195 in 1901-2. The choice for English was 85·4 per cent. in 1902-3, against 75·7 in 1901-2.

In the case of boys only, the percentage in favour of English was 92·6 in Malta and 54·2 in Gozo, against 84·7 and 28·9 in 1901-2.

Instruction in Standards I. and II.

56. Representations having been made that the first two years devoted to instruction in the elementary schools could be employed to greater advantage and more in accordance with the wishes of a large number of parents and guardians, the following changes were introduced in 1902 in the system of elementary instruction established in the Government elementary schools.

1. A child joining an elementary school is, at the request of parents or guardians, taught, colloquially, English or Italian.

2. After one year, pupils who have learnt reading, the simple rules of arithmetic and the elements of religious instruction, commence to learn English or Italian.

3. Parents and guardians are permitted to choose the language for colloquial instruction at once on the children entering the school, and on promotion to a higher class.

Selection of Language of Colloquial Instruction in Standards I. and II.

57. Out of 8,327 parents who, for the first time, selected the language of colloquial instruction for their children attending the lower standards, viz.: below the III Standard, 81·4 per cent. declared for English, and 18·6 per cent. for Italian.

Choice of Language of Examination in higher Standards.

58. The choice of the language or languages in which parents of pupils attending all the higher standards, above the IV., desired their children to be examined gave the following results:—

For English only	...	...	30·7 per cent.
For English and Italian	...	...	68·7 per cent.
For Italian only	...	...	0·6 per cent.

Annual Examinations.

59. At the annual examinations, held between February and July, 11,753 pupils were individually examined. Of these 9,974, or 85·8 per cent. passed with an average percentage of 74·7 of marks.

In 1902-3, 57 of the most eligible pupils were retained in the schools as paid monitors and monitresses in the place of outgoing ones or to take charge of newly-formed classes; 23 boys passed into the Lyceum; 21 were appointed apprentices in His Majesty's Dockyard, by competition; while 13 other boys were admitted to the Archiepiscopal Seminary, three obtained situations by competitive examination, as apprentices in the Public Works Department, and two obtained posts under the military authorities.

Teachers.

60. The supply of efficient teachers is provided for by sending assistant teachers of the elementary schools to undergo a two years' course of training at a college in England. Three male students were sent to Hammersmith and three female students to Wandsworth in July, 1902, after a competitive examination.

The six students sent in 1900, returned to Malta on the completion of their course, and were duly appointed teachers. They all obtained satisfactory certificates of proficiency and were

highly spoken of by the college authorities for their industry and good conduct.

Since the adoption of this practice, the old teachers have been replaced by teachers who have had the advantage of an English training; and the number of such teachers had gradually increased to 12 male teachers and 13 female teachers out of 38 head-masters and 44 head-mistresses by the end of the year.

Cost of Schools.

61. The cost of working the schools in 1902-3, irrespective of cost of erection or repair of buildings, was £20,101 9*s.* 10*d.* of which £16,734 14*s.* 10*d.* was "Personal emoluments" and £3,366 15*s.* 0*d.* "Other Charges" including £1,084 7*s.* 5*d.* for rent of school premises.

The average cost of each scholar calculated by enrolment was £1 7*s.* 10*d.*; calculated by the annual average enrolment, it was £1 9*s.* 5*d.*, and by the average annual attendance, £1 14*s* 1*d.*, as against £1 10*s.* 8*d.* in 1901-2.

Total Expenditure.

62. From the foregoing it will be seen that the total expenditure in respect of education in these Islands, including £500 sanctioned by the Secretary of State in each year for the training of teachers in England, but exclusive of works and repairs in school-buildings, amounted in 1902-3 to £29,999 18*s.* 7*d.*, or more than one-fourteenth of the total expenditure of the Government for the same year.

GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

Hospitals and Asylums.

63. The principal Government Charitable Institutions in Malta and Gozo consist of six hospitals, three asylums and two Poor-houses.

Of the hospitals three are for acute diseases, two for infectious diseases, and one for convalescents, the latter being used also as an ordinary hospital.

The asylums are for lunatics, one for orphans and the third for male lepers.

The Poor-house in Malta includes a division for incurables and accommodation for penitent women and for foundlings; and that in Gozo is for the aged and incurables.

Number of Persons Relieved.

64. The returns of the above Institutions show that the number of persons relieved or maintained during the financial year 1902-3 was 6,439, of which 5,791 in Malta and 648 in Gozo.

DISPENSARIES.

Besides the above Institutions, there are in Malta and Gozo 31 Government dispensaries where medical assistance is afforded to the poor in the towns and villages by the District Medical Officers, and a system of out-door relief, conducted by the Commissioners of Charity, by which alms are distributed to poor persons who cannot suitably be admitted in the charitable institutions.

102,696 cases of disease or injury were attended to during the year by the above District Medical Officers at the dispensaries and at the patients' dwellings; 1,902 vaccinations were performed by the same officers in the town and villages, of which only 316 were unsuccessful; 2,546 persons received pecuniary assistance in monthly allowances, or as "immediate relief," in special cases of distress; 124 foundlings and other infants were kept at nurse; gratuitous assistance of a midwife was granted in 132 cases; and 322 burials of paupers (who either died in the fortified towns, where intra-mural interments are prohibited, or died from infectious diseases in any part of the islands) were made at the expense of the Government.

The poor were further assisted by having small sums of money advanced to them by the Monte di Pietà, on production of pledges consisting in gold and silver articles, wearing apparel and draperies of all descriptions.

Expenditure.

66. The total expenditure incurred during the year for the maintenance of all the above institutions and the performance of all services in connection therewith, including cost of works and repairs of a recurrent nature and of new works, amounted to £60,536 1*s.* 8*d.*, or more than one-tenth of the total expenditure of the Government for the same year.

That amount is classified as follows:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Maintenance of hospitals, asylums, Poor-houses and Government dispensaries, including cost of staff and of works and repairs	53,084	18	6
Cost of articles of bedding, furniture, &c., for the Salesian Reformatory, and wages to a caretaker	119	9	10

	£	s.	d.
Out-door relief in alms	3,163	6	2
Nursing of children out of hospitals	126	10	5
Fees and travelling expenses paid to midwives	33	9	1
Burial of paupers	264	9	2
Monte di Pietà	3,356	19	2
Office of the Consuls for gold and silversmiths	386	19	4
Total	£60,536	1	8

Hospitals.

67. The following table shows in a summarized form the number of patients admitted during the year in the various hospitals, the number discharged from these institutions, the number of deaths which occurred, and the number remaining at the end of the year:—

Hospitals.	Number in Hospital on 1st April, 1902.	Admissions.	Discharged.			Deaths.	Remaining on 31st March, 1903.
			Cured.	Relieved.	Not Improved.		
Central Hospital	175	2,507	1,269	605	373	241	194
Seamen's Hospital	2	59	39	5	6	5	6
Santo Spirito Hospital	58	408	255	54	27	65	65
Manoel Hospital	9	109	87	2	1	20	8
Gozo Hospital	23	390	219	84	5	71	34
,, ,, for Contagious Diseases ...	—	23	18	—	—	4	1
Total	267	3,496	1,887	750	412	406	308

Poor Houses and Asylums.

68. The following table gives the statistics for the Poor Houses and the different Asylums:—

Institution.	No. of Inmates on 31st March, 1902.	Admissions.	Discharged.	Deaths.	Remaining on 31st March, 1903.
Poor House, Malta :—					
1. Aged and Infirm ...	735	182	31	155	731
2. Incurables	189	28	6	21	190
3. Lepers	73	9	1	6	75
Lunatic Asylum	660	139	88	49	662
Orphan Asylum	93	14	16	2	89
Poor House, Gozo	143	46	8	35	146
Totals	1,893	418	159	268	1,893

Cost of Hospitals and Asylums.

69. The following table shows the cost of each Hospital and Asylum, the daily average number of inmates in each institution, and the daily cost per inmate treated and maintained. These amounts include expenses of all descriptions, not omitting cost of works and repairs and all salaries and other charges of the Central Offices of Administration, which latter charges are apportioned to the several institutions according to the daily average population in each of them:—

Institution.	Total cost.	Average daily number of inmates.	Daily cost per head.
	£		s. d.
Central Hospital	10,615	168	3 6
Seamen's Hospital...	470	4	6 5
Santo Spirito Hospital	2,078	66	1 9
Manoel Hospital	650	5	7 2
Lunatic Asylum	11.915	671	0 11
Orphan Asylum	2,221	92	1 4
Asylum for the Aged and Incurables.	14,772	884	0 11
Leper Asylum	3,860	59	3 7
Gozo Hospital	844	29	1 7
Gozo Hospital for Contagious Diseases.	123	2	8 9
Poor House, Gozo...	2,044	136	0 10
	49,592	2,116	1 3¼

Works Carried Out.

70. The works of importance which were carried out, in the course of the year, were the following:—

Concreting the yards in the small-pox division of the Manoel Hospital, at a cost of £170 13*s.* 0*d.*, a work which was much required to ensure greater cleanliness and facilitate disinfection; construction of a partition wall, to divide the grounds of the male leper asylum from those of the female ward, which has yet to be built. That work, which was carried out at a cost of £546 0*s.* 11*d.*, was urgently required for preventing serious disorders which were taking place, owing to the fact that the inmates were at liberty to wander over a large extent of ground, and proper supervision was not possible on that account. A portion of the rocks around the asylum was levelled at a cost of £441 2*s.* 3*d.*, and the ground was rendered fit for cultivation, for the benefit and recreation of the patients; and another work of great importance, which was carried out in the Central and Seamen's Hospital at a cost of £1,165 5*s.* 3¼*d.*, was the laying in cement of the pavements of all the wards and other places, which were in a very bad condition and therefore contributed to the unsatisfactory state of the hospitals as regard their hygiene.

Works Required.

71. There are, however, several structural and other improvements urgently required in the charitable institutions to render them fit for the object for which they are intended. The lunatic asylum has for some time been too small for local requirements. An extension of the accommodation and the building of a separate wing for criminal patients, who are at present mixed up with ordinary lunatics, would remove the present unsatisfactory conditions prevailing there.

Another urgent necessity is the building of an asylum for female lepers who, notwithstanding the passing of a law in 1893, providing for their segregation, are still at large for want of accommodation.

Two additional wards in the male division of the Poor house and the completion of the chapel are also urgently required.

But the want which is mostly felt in connection with the charities of these islands is the building of a new general hospital in substitution for the existing one, which has become inadequate to the needs of the increased population, whilst on account of its position and original construction it does not admit of any further enlargement or improvement.

Private Institutions.

72. Besides the above Government Institutions there are several private charities and institutions or industrial schools in Malta and Gozo; but only three of these, namely, (1) "The Casa di S. Giuseppe," (2) "The Convent of the Good Shepherd," and (3) "The Crêche," receive assistance from the Government, either in the shape of an annual subsidy or otherwise.

(1) The "Casa di S. Giuseppe," which is allowed £120 per annum, is an industrial school for boys who are deprived of the care of their parents, either on account of their being orphans or for other reasons; (2) The "Convent of the Good Shepherd," which receives a subsidy of £60 a year, consists of three sections which are kept entirely separate. One section is for penitent women, the second section is an orphanage, and the third a school for girls of the better classes and a few boarders, who pay a moderate fee for their instruction and maintenance. (3) The "Crêche" is conducted by the Ursoline Sisters, who are allowed to occupy a Government house at a reduced rent. This institution has for its object the taking care of infants and other children during the day with a view to enabling their mothers to work, when they have to support their families.

Savings Bank.

Period of Account.

73. The return for the Savings Bank is made up for the year from 1st January to the 31st December, 1902, and not for the financial year, the regulations governing the management of this institution not having as yet been amended so as to make it possible to balance the depositors' accounts on the 31st March, instead of the 31st December, of each year as established by those regulations.

Deposits and Withdrawals.

74. The total amount to the credit of depositors on the 31st December, 1902, was £571,451 19*s.* 6¾*d.*, an increase of £24,959 8*s.* 9¾*d.* over that of last year. The deposits during the year were £129,345 19*s.* 2*d.*, and the withdrawals £112,898 2*s.* 10¼*d.*, the number of depositors being 7,561 against 7,177 in the previous year.

Investments.

75. The total amount of invested funds is £534,500.

Cost of Working.

76. The expense of management and interest credited to depositors in 1902 amounted to £9,472 8*s.* 5*d.*, whilst the revenue from interest on investments was £14,304 1*s.* 0*d.*, showing a net profit of £4,831 12*s.* 7*d.* on the year's transactions, as against £4,723 12*s.* 11*d.* in 1901.

77. A comparison of the transactions of this bank for the last five years shows a steady increase of business during the period, and is a clear sign of the increasing prosperity of the Island, especially of the working classes whose earnings have considerably risen of late years:—

Year.	No. of Depositors on 31st December.	Amount. Deposited	Amount of Withdrawals.	Total amount to Credit of Depositors on 31st December.
		£	£	£
1898 ...	6,657	99,113	102,606	519,038
1899 ...	6,750	105,195	109,797	522,148
1900 ...	6,960	115,157	109,492	535,571
1901 ...	7,177	120,109	117,229	546,492
1902 ...	7,561	129,345	112,898	571,452

CRIMINAL STATISTICS.

Number and Nature of Offences.

78. The number of offences reported to the police during the year was 15,119, against 10,436 in 1901. Of the offences reported, 1,696 were for offences against the person, 62 against the good order of families, 785 offences against property, and the remaining 12,576 comprise all other offences, chiefly contraventions of police and sanitary laws.

Magistrates' Courts.

79. The number of persons brought before the Magistrates' Courts by arrest, warrants or summonses was 15,722, an increase of 4,186 when compared with the number for 1901. Of these 14,458 were convicted, 186 committed for trial and 1,078 acquitted.

With regard to the summary convictions, the punishments inflicted were: fines, 11,916; imprisonment in lieu of fines. 115; peremptory imprisonment, 212; admonished, 2,153; bound over with or without sureties, 62.

With regard to the classes of offences included in the above convictions there were:—

Assaults and other offences against the person	319
Malicious injury to property	210
Offences against the good order of families	19
Other offences	13,610

Superior Courts.

80. Of the 186 persons tried in His Majesty's Superior Courts, 50 were acquitted and 136 were convicted. The convictions were: three for murder, two for manslaughter, three attempt at murder, 61 for offences against the person, 32 offences against property, two offences against the good order of families, two for false evidence, and 31 for offences not included in the above category.

Prisons.

81. The following table shows the number of persons who passed through the prisons during the year:—

—	Remaining on 1st April, 1902.	Admitted during 1902–3.	Total.	Discharged, Transferred, &c.	Died.	Remaining on 31st March, 1903.
Corradino Prison—						
Criminal Prisoners...	166	474	640	465	—	175
Debtors	3	5	8	5	—	3
Gozo Prison—						
Criminal Prisoners...	7	593	600	590	—	10
Debtors	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total ...	176	1,072	1,248	1,060	—	188

Admissions.

—	1901-2.			1902-3.		
	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.
Corradino—						
From Local Courts	317	43	360	358	35	393
Courts Martial	47	—	47	80	—	80
Consular Prisoners	1	—	1	1	—	1
Debtors	7	—	7	5	—	5
Gozo—						
From Local Courts	518	26	544	577	16	593
Debtors	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	890	69	959	1,021	51	1,072

Health of Prisoners.

82. The health of the prisoners was good; there were four admissions to hospital during the year, the average on the sick list being four, and there were no deaths.

Breaches of Discipline.

83. The number of punishments for breaches of discipline during the year was 75, viz.:—

Solitary confinement on prison diet	27
Solitary confinement on bread and water ...	20
Dark cell on bread and water	1
Admonished	27

Revenue.

84. The receipts, under the head of Reimbusements, were as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
Maintenance of consular and naval prisoners	290	0	2
Sale of prison manufactures	120	0	0
Sale of vegetables, &c.	112	10	10
Total	£522	11	0

To this sum should be added the estimated value of the work done by prisoners for the Department (1,106 0*s.* 0*d.*) and the

value of the manure made in the prison and used on the land (£17 9*s.* 2*d.*).

Expenditure.

85. The total annual cost of the prisons for the year was £4,326 16*s.* 2*d.*, distributed as follows:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Corradino Prison	4,201	7	8
Gozo Prison	125	8	6
Total	£4,326	16	2

The nett cost of the prisons was, therefore, £2,680 16*s.* 0*d.*

VITAL STATISTICS.

Population.

86. The population for the year 1902-3 is estimated at 193,315, or an increase of 3,566 on the estimated population of 1st April, 1902. This estimate is arrived at by taking the excess of births over deaths and of arrivals over departures during the year.

Births.

87. The number of births registered during the year was 7,480. This is equal to a general birth-rate of 38·69 per 1,000. Of the births 3,984 were males and 3,496 were females.

Deaths.

88. The deaths recorded numbered 4,840, or 25·03 per 1,000 of the population. Of the deaths 2,488 were of males and 2,352 of females.

Marriages.

89. The number of marriages was 1,536.

Public Health.

General Remarks.

90. The general state of the public health was good. The percentage of deaths under five years to total deaths is 50·87. There were 297 deaths from zymotic diseases, 6·1 per cent. of the total number of deaths.

The death-rate in the urban zone (the fortified towns) which is drained was, for the year, 24·15. The death-rate for the suburban undrained zone was 27·08 and that for rural area was 24·78.

Measles.

91. Measles prevailed in an epidemic form in Malta. 1,191 cases were reported of which 49 ended fatally. Deaths among children have this year increased, and this result is attributed to the prevalence of measles and their sequelae.

Diphtheria.

92. The number of cases of diphtheria reported in Malta and Gozo was 147 of which 55 ended fatally. The antidiphtheric serum is being freely made use of, and the decrease in the percentage of deaths from diphtheria may reasonably be attributed to this fact.

Small-pox.

93. Small-pox again appeared in Malta, but owing to the sanitary measures adopted the disease was in a short time stamped out, and out of 10 cases recorded only two deaths were registered.

Cases of anthrax among cattle occurred in the early part of the year, but ceased altogether at the beginning of October.

CLIMATE.

94. There is no doubt that the ordinary climatic conditions are very favourable to health; but the sanitary condition of the towns and villages requires further improvement. It is anticipated that as the drainage works are carried out, and the system is established in the different centres, a marked improvement in sanitation and its results will follow.

RAINFALL.

95. The rainfall records for the year show 23·67 inches in 78 days, which is considerably above the average.

Meteorological Returns.

96. The meteorological returns for the year will be found in the following table:—

Month.	Temperature.					Rainfall.		Winds.	
	Solar Maximum.	Shade Maximum.	Shade Minimum.	Range Mean Daily.	Mean Temperature.	Amount (Inches).	Mean Degree of Humidity.	General Direction.	Average Force, 0–10.
January ...	126·0	66·3	47·8	7·3	55·9	0·89	79·6	N.W. & N.	2·5
February ...	129·2	66·7	43·5	8·5	57·8	2·21	86·4	S. & S.E.	2·4
March ...	130·0	71·4	55·4	6·9	57·2	0·75	85·5	N.W. & S.E.	3·3
April ...	140·0	77·5	53·1	7·2	62·6	1·20	87·7	S.E. & N.	2·8
May	133·0	72·5	53·2	8·2	63·3	0·61	74·7	N.W. & N.	3·3
June... ...	140·0	85·1	63·5	6·7	72·1	0·00	76·9	N.W. & N.	3·4
July... ...	150·0	98·4	72·3	10·7	88·1	0·00	71·2	N.W. & N.	2·2
August ...	151·0	97·5	69·1	9·4	81·4	0·00	76·1	N.W. & N.	2·2
September ...	144·7	88·0	63·3	9·2	78·1	2·43	74·5	S. & S.E.	2·4
October ...	140·0	81·3	57·4	7·4	71·9	5·91	77·7	S.E. & W.	2·5
November ...	132·0	72·5	52·5	7·1	62·9	6·40	78·3	W. & E.	3·2
December ...	121·0	66·9	45·1	6·4	56·5	3·27	74·5	W. & N.W.	3·7

POSTAL, TELEGRAPH, AND TELEPHONE SERVICES.

(A.) Post Office.

Revenue and Expenditure.

97. The revenue of the Post Office for the period from 1st April, 1902, to 31st March, 1903, amounted to £21,360 0*s.* 1*d.* as against £17,449 16*s.* 3*d.* for the previous 12 months, an increase of £3,910 3*s.* 10*d.*

The expenditure for the same periods was £13,951 3*s.* 1*d.* and £15,712 5*s.* 8*d.* respectively, showing a decrease of £1,761 2*s.* 7*d.* in 1902-3.

The net profit of the Post Office in 1902-3 was, therefore, £7,408 17*s.* 0*d.*, against £2,482 19*s.* 5*d.* in the previous financial year.

Mail Matter Dealt with.

98. The quantity of mail matter dealt with during the year was very considerable, though it fell short of that in the previous year.

Comparing the figures for 1902-3 with those for 1901-2 we find a decrease of 299,309 letters sent and received and 858,305 printed matter sent and received, and an increase of 76,817 post cards and 7,958 parcels sent and received. The decrease in letters is attributed to the prolonged absence of the fleet and the reduced strength of the garrison owing to the war. The increase in the number of postcards is due to the ever increasing exchange of illustrated cards all over the world; that of parcels to the great use which is being made of this branch of the service by the small trade of the Island.

99. The following table gives details of the postal matter sent to and from the Colony during the two years:—

Articles.	1901-2.		1902-3.	
	Received.	Despatched.	Received.	Despatched.
Letters	2,385,270	1,192,639	2,185,734	1,092,866
Post Cards	158,700	79,343	209,907	104,953
Printed Matter ...	1,371,594	685,796	799,390	399,695
Parcels (actual number)	48,869	16,667	54,622	18,872

(B.) Telegraphs.

100. The telegraph system in the Island belongs to the military authorities and it is not open to the public. The foreign cables are the exclusive property of the Eastern Telegraph Company.

(C.) Telephones.

101. The telephone service is conducted by the "Melita Telephone Exchange," which is a private enterprise and has 519 miles of wires. All Government offices, including the police stations, are connected with the Exchange; but communication with the Island of Gozo is carried on by telephone under the management of the military authorities.

MILITARY FORCES AND EXPENDITURE.

(A.) Regular Forces.

Expenditure.

102. The expenditure for the year 1902-3 on the regular forces stationed in this command, including the Royal Malta Artillery, is reported to be £719,383 entirely defrayed from Imperial Funds. The Colonial contribution towards military defence is £5,000 a year, as fixed by Letters Patent of 1887.

Royal Malta Artillery.

The Royal Malta Artillery, whose officers are now liable to serve abroad, consists of five companies, one of which is stationed in Egypt, and one depôt company. The whole corps is composed of 29 officers and 708 warrant officers, non-commissioned officers and men, who receive the same pay as regular Infantry regiments.

(B.) Militia.

K. O. R. M. R.

The Militia is composed of two battalions of Infantry, and one company Submarine Miners attached to the Royal Engineers, forming an establishment of 35 officers and 1,096 warrant officers, non-commission officers and men to each Infantry battalion, and 62 non-commissioned officers and men of the Submarine Miners.

The Militia is liable to embodiment, and may be called out for 72 days' drill during the year, out of which 12 days are spent in camp for musketry practice which generally takes place in the month of June. The Submarine Miners, of whom 18 men are permanently employed, have 120 days' training every year.

Expenditure.

The actual expenditure incurred by the Imperial Government for the maintenance of the Militia in 1902-3 was £14,594 11*s.* 10¾*d.*, distributed as follows:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Pay, &c., Royal M. R.	8,542	12	11½
Pay, &c., Permanent Staff, Royal M. R.	4,598	16	1½
Pay, &c., Submarine Miners ...	1,228	15	5
Pay, &c., Permanent Staff, Submarine Miners	224	7	4¾
Total	£14,594	11	10¾

The total expenditure incurred by Great Britain for the military protection of the Colony in 1902-3 was £733,977 11*s.* 10¾*d.*

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

Visit of T.R.H. the Duke and Duchess of Connaught.

108. On the 15th March the Island was honoured by a visit from Their Royal Highnesses the Duke and Duchess of Connaught on their way home from India. Their Royal Highnesses remained for four days, during which they visited most of the places of interest in the Island. A loyal reception was accorded to them by the Maltese.

Administration.

109. Lord Grenfell's administration came to a close on the 31st March, before the expiration of his term of office, on his appointment to the command of the 4th Army Corps. He left the Island, on leave, on the 19th of that month, and his successor, General Sir Charles Mansfield Clarke, Bart., G.C.B., assumed the government on the 2nd April, the government being administered in the interval by Major-General R. B. Lane, C.B., as Deputy-Governor. Lord Grenfell took a keen interest in the Island and the welfare of the people, and his departure was generally regretted.

Sir Gerald Strickland, K.C.M.G., Chief Secretary to Government, was promoted to the governorship of the Leeward Islands, and Mr. E. M. Merewether, British Resident, Selangor, was

appointed Lieutenant-Governor and Chief Secretary to Government.

Mr. W. Casolani, Assistant Secretary to Government and Clerk to the Council, was appointed Receiver-General and Director of Contracts in the place of Mr. C. Gatt, who was transferred to the appointment of Auditor-General which has become vacant by the retirement of Mr. A. Sciortino, and Mr. F. C. Fuller, Colonial Treasurer, Lagos, was appointed Assistant Secretary to Government.

Mr. Antonio Micallef, LL.D., was appointed one of His Majesty's Judges, vice Judge Dr. Luigi Ganado, superannuated.

Railway.

110. The gross earnings of the railway for the year 1902-3 amounted to £9,020 5*s.* 7¾*d.*, or an increase of £600 16*s.* 8*d.* on the receipts of the previous year.

The working expenses amounted to £6,105 9*s.* 4½*d.*, showing an increase of £245 10*s.* 2¼*d.* over the expenditure for the previous twelve months, and the amount spent in renewals was £520 16*s.* 10¾*d.*

After setting aside a sum of £1,122 3*s.* 10*d.* for interest on capital, and passing a sum of £301 0*s.* 8*d.* to the reserve fund, there remains a sum of £960 14*s.* 10¼*d.* to be transferred to general revenue.

Hitherto the profits of the railway have all been spent on new works, renewals, and purchase of rolling stock, and the reserve fund amounts to only £1,348 9*s.* 3*d.* To place the undertaking on a proper financial footing, a sinking fund should be established with a view to gradually extinguishing the capital outlay, and the reserve fund should be kept to meet unforeseen expenditure. The figures given in previous reports under "Profits on Working" do not represent the actual profit, inasmuch as part of the profits was spent during each year on renewals, &c.

The expenditure on coal has been reduced during the last two years by manufacturing the coal dust, which was formerly sold, into briquettes at the railway yard. The saving thus effected in each of the two years was £342 and £378 respectively.

The technical school attached to the Railway Department continues to do its useful work both in the interest of the Government and of the public. The number of apprentices at present being trained is 19. Four of the apprentices who received training at the school obtained employment last year in His Majesty's dockyard, and three others with private local firms.

Roads.

111. The state of the roads leaves a good deal to be desired. This is due in the first place to faulty construction, and in the second place to insufficient maintenance, and a considerable outlay will be necessary before they can be put in a satisfactory condition. Considerable damage was done to the roads by the unusually heavy rains in the early part of the current year.

Palace Armoury.

112. By permission of the King, Mr. Guy Laking, His Majesty's Armourer at Windsor Castle, visited Malta for the purpose of drawing up a proper catalogue of the armour in the Palace Armoury. Mr. Laking not only drew up a very admirable catalogue, but he also rearranged the armour, and disposed the most interesting and valuable suits so that they could be seen to the best advantage. He also discovered some valuable armour which had been painted black and was not known to have any special value.

Prosperity of the Working Classes.

113. The year under review was again a prosperous one for the labouring classes. Owing to the number of important works now in progress, the demand for labour exceeds the supply, and the present high rate of wages is likely to continue for several years to come.

I have, &c.,

E. M. Merewether,

Lieutenant-Governor and

Chief Secretary to Government.

TABLE I.

Return Showing the Estimated and Actual Revenue for 1902–3.

Heads of Revenue.	Estimated.	Actual.	Excess.	Deficiency.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1. Customs	242,833 0 0	262,099 14 11	19,266 14 11	—
2. Harbour and Quarantine Dues	9,331 0 0	9,027 2 4	—	303 17 8
3. Licences, Court Fines, &c.	5,446 0 0	7,200 7 4	1,754 7 4	—
3A. Stamp Duty	10,000 0 0	4,719 9 6	—	5,280 10 6
4. Fees and Reimbursements	24,510 0 0	26,234 3 9¼	1,724 3 9¼	—
5. Post Office	15,871 0 0	21,360 0 1	5,489 0 1	—
5A. Railway	8,226 0 0	9,020 5 7¾	794 5 7¾	—
6. Water Service	13,167 0 0	14,734 11 3½	1,567 11 3½	—
6A. Electric Lighting	16,518 0 0	16,836 9 4¾	318 9 4¾	—
7. Rents—Rural	12,840 0 0	12,546 7 10¾	—	293 12 1¼
8. Rents—Urban	27,629 0 0	28,919 9 2¾	1,290 9 2¾	—
9. Rents, Account Charitable Foundations	4,032 0 0	3,997 16 2¾	—	34 3 9¼
10. Interest	28,158 0 0	28,370 1 1	212 1 1	—
Total	418,561 0 0	445,065 18 8½	32,417 2 9	5,912 4 0½

TABLE II.

Return Showing the Revenue Received in 1902-3, as Compared with that for 1901-2.

Heads of Revenue.	Actual in 1901-2.	Actual in 1902-3.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1. Customs...	230,154 8 11	262,099 14 11	31,945 6 0	—
2. Harbour and Quarantine Dues	9,937 3 6	9,027 2 4	—	910 1 2
3. Licences, Court Fines, &c.	5,884 4 8	7,200 7 4	1,316 2 8	—
3A. Stamp Duty	2,780 6 9	4,719 9 6	1,939 2 9	—
4. Fees and Reimbursements	28,452 19 0¾	26,234 3 9¼	—	2,218 15 3½
5. Post Office	17,449 16 3	21,360 0 1	3,910 3 10	—
5A. Railway	8,419 9 2¾	9,020 5 7¾	600 16 5	—
6. Water Service	14,302 8 2¾	14,734 11 3½	432 2 0¾	—
6A. Electric Lighting	16,485 3 9¾	16,836 9 4¾	351 5 7	—
7. Rents, Rural	13,554 5 10	12,546 7 10¾	—	1,007 17 11¼
8. Rents, Urban	27,563 5 8	28,919 9 2¾	1,356 3 6¾	—
9. Rents, Account Charitable Foundations	4,247 12 0¾	3,997 16 2¾	—	249 15 10
10. Interest	33,866 6 11¾	28,370 1 1	—	5,496 5 10¾
Total	413,097 10 11½	445,065 18 8½	41,851 3 10½	9,882 16 1½

TABLE III.

STATEMENT SHOWING the ESTIMATED and ACTUAL EXPENDITURE for 1902-3.

Heads of Expenditure.	Estimated.	Actual.	Excess.	Saving.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1. Charges on Account of Interest and Burthens	19,074 11 11	19,596 7 4	521 15 5	—
2. Pensions	15,113 10 2	17,174 16 3	2,061 6 1	—
3. The Governor and Legislature	4,939 8 4	4,902 7 11	—	37 0 5
4. Chief Secretary's Department	4,704 11 8	4,538 16 9½	—	165 14 10½
5. Receiver-General's Department	3,204 6 8	3,180 9 9	—	23 16 11
6. Customs and Port Department	11,580 18 6	11,302 11 9	—	278 6 9
7. Audit Department	1,934 1 8	2,053 5 10	119 4 2	—
8. Printing Office	1,307 13 9	1,252 5 6	—	55 8 3
9. Railway Department	7,684 11 1	7,528 13 10½	—	155 17 2½
9A. Railway Department Special Expenditure	1,530 0 0	470 11 1½	—	1,059 8 10½
9B. Technical School...	1,712 10 0	1,048 15 3	—	663 14 9
10. Legal Departments	23,164 4 0	21,254 0 10	—	1,910 3 2
11. Police	48,301 16 0	43,524 11 6	—	4,777 4 6
11A. Public Health Department	11,747 0 3	11,722 9 0	—	24 11 3
12. Prisons	4,605 7 0	4,201 7 8	—	403 19 4
13. Charitable Institutions	56,382 6 9	54,133 5 8	—	2,249 1 1
14. Education...	10,157 7 2	9,395 12 8½	—	761 14 5½

TABLE III—*continued.*

Heads of Expenditure.	Estimated.	Actual.	Excess.	Saving.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
14A. Elementary Schools Department	20,844 1 6	20,101 12 10	—	742 8 8
14B. Public Libraries	859 12 11	814 10 7	—	45 2 4
15. Post Office	14,223 9 10	13,951 3 1	—	272 6 9
16. Ecclesiastical Expenditure	960 0 0	786 8 6	—	173 11 6
17. Military Expenditure	5,000 0 0	5,000 0 0	—	—
18. Miscellaneous Services	19,111 11 1	21,525 0 7	2,413 9 6	—
19. Superintendent of Public Works	6,101 14 2	5,966 19 9	—	134 14 5
19A. Water Works and Electric Lighting Department	29,223 5 0	30,653 16 0½	1,430 11 0½	—
20. Public Works Recurrent	57,594 13 8	58,038 12 5½	443 18 9½	—
21. { Public Works Extraordinary	15,454 4 2	12,954 6 10½	—	2,499 17 3½
{ Water Works Extraordinary	8,985 16 2	5,656 11 3	—	3,329 4 11
Total	405,502 13 5	392,729 10 8½	6,990 5 0	19,763 7 8½
Expenditure under Order in Council, 1901...	38,130 0 0	32,985 4 10½	—	5,144 15 1½
Grand Total	443,632 13 5	425,714 15 7	6,990 5 0	24,908 2 10

TABLE IV.

RETURN SHOWING the ACTUAL EXPENDITURE for 1902–3 as COMPARED with that for 1901–2.

Heads of Expenditure.	Actual in 1901–2.	Actual in 1902–3.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1. Charges on Account of Interest and Burthens	18,755 5 4	19,596 7 4	841 2 0	—
2. Pensions	15,435 3 6	17,174 16 3	1,739 12 9	—
3. The Governor and Legislature	5,287 1 8	4,902 7 11	—	384 13 9
4. Chief Secretary's Department	4,362 4 0	4,538 16 9½	176 12 9½	—
5. Receiver General's Department	2,992 7 9	3,180 9 9	188 2 0	—
6. Customs and Port Department...	10,451 9 5	11,302 11 9	851 2 4	—
7. Audit Department	1,874 0 3	2,053 5 10	179 5 7	—
8. Printing Office	1,344 16 10	1,252 5 6	—	92 11 4
9. Railway Department	6,728 6 3	7,528 13 10½	800 7 7½	—
9A. Railway Department Special Expenditure	1,243 12 6	470 11 1½	—	773 1 4½
9B. Technical Schools	1,691 0 0	1,048 15 3	—	642 4 9
10. Legal Departments	22,490 15 1	21,254 0 10	—	1,236 14 3
11. Police	43,043 6 5	43,524 11 6	481 5 1	—
11A. Public Health Department	10,579 4 10½	11,722 9 0	1,143 4 1½	—
12. Prisons	4,461 5 2	4,201 7 8	—	259 17 6
13. Charitable Institutions	54,540 3 5	54,133 5 8	—	406 17 9
14. Education	8,127 19 11	9,395 12 8½	1,267 12 9½	—

TABLE IV—*continued.*

Heads of Expenditure.	Actual in 1901–2.	Actual in 1902–3.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
14A. Elementary Schools Department	18,259 10 7	20,101 12 10	1,842 2 3	—
14B. Public Libraries	761 2 0	814 10 7	53 8 7	—
15. Post Office	15,712 5 8	13,951 3 1	—	1,761 2 7
16. Ecclesiastical Expenditure	865 4 1	786 8 6	—	78 15 7
17. Military Expenditure	5,000 0 0	5,000 0 0	—	—
18. Miscellaneous Services	19,720 5 5¾	21,525 0 7	1,804 15 1¼	—
19. Superintendent of Public Works	5,512 18 7	5,966 19 9	454 1 2	—
19A. Water Works and Electric Lighting Department	28,977 10 1½	30,653 16 0½	1,676 5 11	—
20. Public Works Recurrent	52,205 11 4½	58,038 12 5½	5,833 1 1	—
21. { Public Works Extraordinary	20,501 13 8½	12,954 6 10½	—	7,547 6 10
{ Water Works Extraordinary	5,410 4 2	5,656 11 3	246 7 1	—
Total	386,334 8 1¾	392,729 10 8½	19,578 8 3¼	13,183 5 8½
Expenditure under Order in Council 1901	28,452 11 2½	32,985 4 10½	4,532 13 8	—
Grand Total	414,786 19 4¼	425,714 15 7	24,111 1 11¼	13,183 5 8½

TABLE V.

STATEMENT of the ASSETS and LIABILITIES of the GOVERNMENT TREASURY on the 31st MARCH, 1903.

—	Assets. £	s.	d.	Liabilities. £	s.	d.
Investments in Imperial and Colonial Securities.	665,705	8	0	—		
Investments in the Monte di Pietá ...	2,118	18	9¼	—		
Funds deposited with the Anglo-Maltese Bank.	25,388	17	11	—		
Funds deposited with the London and Westminster Bank.	15,292	8	7	—		
Capital laid out for portion of furniture in Governor's Palaces.	1,850	0	0	—		
Loans to the Monte di Pietá	52,000	0	0	—		
Advances made by Treasury	11,679	3	11	—		
Cash	5,543	6	8½	—		
Court and other Deposits	—			85,037	4	2¾
Dollar Investment Fund	—			21,837	10	0
Saving Bank	—			577,903	12	4¾
Pappaffy Emigration Fund	—			10,025	0	0
Administrators of Pappaffy Emigration Fund.	—			2,113	18	9¼
Deposit for works allocated to the Government Immovable Property under Ordinance No. 5 of 1891.	—			2,783	2	6
Reserve Funds	—			31,901	18	1
Sinking Fund Account—Plant for Flushing Drainage.	—			167	12	3
Immovable Property Deposit Accounts	—			24,083	6	9¼
Drafts and Remittances	—			784	19	0
Total Assets	779,578	3	10¾	756,638	4	0
Total Liabilities ...	756,638	4	0			
Surplus	22,939	19	10¾			

LONDON:
PRINTED FOR HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE,
By DARLING & SON, Ltd., 34-40, Bacon Street, E.

1903.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL

No. 439.

MALTA.

REPORT FOR 1903-4.

(For Report for 1902-3, *see* No. 410)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
December, 1904.

LONDON:
PRINTED FOR HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE,
By DARLING & SON, Ltd., 34-40, Bacon Street, E.

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1904.

[Cd. 2238-16.] *Price* 3½*d.*

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No. 439.

MALTA.

(For Report for 1902–3, *see* No. 410.)

GOVERNOR SIR C. M. CLARKE to MR. LYTTELTON.

The Palace, Valletta,
11th November, 1904.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith two copies of the Blue Book of the Colony, together with the report of the Lieutenant-Governor thereon, for the year 1903-4.

I have, &c.,

CHAS. M. CLARKE,
Governor.

Lieutenant-Governor's Office,
Valletta, 7th November, 1904.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to submit the following report on the Annual Blue Book for the year 1903-4.

I.—FINANCIAL.

(A.) GENERAL REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

Revenue.

1. The revenue for the year 1903-4, exclusive of the value of stores issued, was £464,591, and the expenditure £410,887. The excess of revenue over expenditure for the year was, therefore, £53,704. Including £142, value of stores issued during the year, and £19,416, surplus brought forward from 1902-3, the nett surplus standing to the credit of the Government at the close of the financial year was £73,262.

Revenue, Estimated and Actual.

2. The estimated revenue for the year 1903-4 was £432,145 and the actual revenue £464,591, showing an excess over the estimate of £32,446. (*See* Appendix I.)

3. The estimate has been exceeded under every head of revenue, except "Harbour and Quarantine Dues" and "Stamp Duty," which fell short of the estimate by £2,104 and £283, respectively.

The most important excess is under "Customs" (£19,955), which was due to (*a*) larger imports of wheat and sugar, and (*b*) to the gradual exhaustion of the stocks of petroleum and tobacco, imported in anticipation of the imposition of the new duties under the Order in Council of the 26th September, 1901.

Other important excesses are:—

Licences, Court fines, &c. ...	£2,146
Fees of Office, &c.	5,200
Post Office	1,949
Water Service	2,632
Interest	1,201

Revenue for 1902–3 *and* 1903–4 *compared.*

4. The revenue for the year under review exceeded that of 1902-3 by £19,525 (*see* Appendix II.). Increases will be found under all heads except four, the principal increases being under "Customs," £12,152; "Fees and Reimbursements," £4,598; "Water Service," £2,941; and "Interest," £2,002; and the principal decreases under "Harbour and Quarantine Dues," £1,194; and "Post Office," £1,736.

Increases.

5. The increase in Customs receipts is due to the causes mentioned in paragraph 3. The increase under head of "Fees and Reimbursements" is mainly due to consideration money paid by the firm which obtained concessions for tramways and the Barracca lift, and to larger amounts paid by the naval authorities for stacking coal. Under "Water Service" the advance is due to an increase in the number of water services laid, and to greater consumption of aqueduct water; and the increase under "Interest" is mainly due to further investments in Colonial securities.

Decreases.

6. The falling-off under "Harbour and Quarantine Dues" is due to smaller imports of cattle; to the granting of permission for keeping cattle in quarantine in private pens, and to the relaxation of quarantine restrictions. The decrease under "Post Office" is due to a falling-off in the sale of stamps during the year, to the non-receipt of postage on parcels received from Italy and France, and of transit rates from the United Kingdom during the financial year, and to a reduction in transit rates.

General Reserve Fund.

7. The amount of this fund on 1st April, 1903, was £8,108, and the expenditure charged to the fund during 1903-4 was £471, leaving a balance, on the 31st March, 1904, of £7,637, against which there were liabilities amounting to £2,779. The nett available balance was, therefore, £4,858.

Immovable Property Account.

8. The balance of this fund on 1st April, 1903, was £24,083, and on the 31st March, 1904, it stood at £33,242. The increase is mainly due to the sale of Government lands to the Admiralty, and to the contractors for the construction of the Valletta breakwater.

Revenue for the last five years.

9. The following table shows the revenue collected during the last five years:—

Year.	Revenue.	Increase.
	£	£
1899	354,266	—
1900	356,758	1,492
1901	385,698	28,940
1902-3	445,066	59,368
1903–4	464,591	19,525

Expenditure.

10. The total expenditure for 1903-4 amounted to £412,550, which was made up as follows:—

From General Revenue	£410,887
„ General Reserve Fund	471
„ Immovable Property Account ...	1,192
Total ...	£412,550

11. The expenditure out of the general revenue was made up as follows:—

(*a*) Personal Emoluments	£152,460
(*b*) Other Charges	253,190
(*c*) Under Malta Revenue and General Purposes Order in Council, 1901 ...	5,237
	£410,887

Expenditure, Estimated and Actual.

12. The actual expenditure fell short of the estimate by £49,946.

Appendix III. shows the estimated and actual expenditure with the excesses and savings under the different heads. The only excess of importance is one of £3,431 under "Public Works, Annually Recurrent Expenditure," while there were

considerable savings under other heads, the most important of which are the following:—

Legal Departments	£1,000
Police	3,513
Public Health Department ...	2,188
Charitable Institutions	1,512
Elementary Schools	1,175
Water Works and Electric Lighting Department	2,230
Public Works Extraordinary ...	5,779

Expenditure for 1902-3 *and* 1903-4 *compared.*

13. A comparative statement of the expenditure in 1902-3 and 1903-4 is given in Appendix IV., which shows a nett decrease of £14,828.

Increases.

14. The principal increases are under the following heads, viz.:—

(*a*) "Interest and Burthens," £1,242 12*s.* 0*d.*, due to interest paid on additional investments in the Savings Bank and to larger amounts carried to Reserve Funds "A" and "B";

(*b*) "Railway," £957 0*s.* 3*d.*, due to new works carried out for the improvement of the permanent way;

(*c*) "Police," £1,963 19*s.* 7*d.*, chiefly due to the periodical supply of uniforms and greatcoats, which fell due in 1903-4;

(*d*) "Public Health Department," £1,553 16*s.* 5½*d.*, which is attributable to increased expenditure on the maintenance of the drainage and on transport; to the transfer of salaries of the Medical Officers of Health, the Chemist and the Analytical Chemist from Head XIII., Police; and to periodical increments of salaries;

(*e*) "Charitable Institutions," £3,373 6*s.* 8*d.*, mainly due to periodical increments of salaries and new appointments; to a rise in the market price of provisions, fuel, &c.; to a larger consumption of water in several of the Institutions; and to an increase in the amount of the allowance granted to the families of lepers detained in the hospital;

(*f*) "Elementary Schools," £2,803 6*s.* 6*d.*, due to the addition of an Assistant Inspectress; to a revision of the classification of the teaching staff; and to increased expenditure for water supply, rent of schools, book-binding, stationery and petty expenses, consequent on the establishment of new schools;

(*g*) "Post Office," £2,326 5*s.* 11*d.*, due to periodical increments of salaries, transfers of clerks, new appointments, and payment of transit rates on account of the previous year;

(*h*) "Miscellaneous Services," £6,910 4*s.* 7*d.* This increase is mainly due to larger payments for drawbacks on manufactured wheat exported; the reorganisation of the clerical service; the expenditure incurred on the occasion of the visit of His Majesty the King to Malta; the contribution towards the celebration, in Malta, of the Jubilee of His Holiness the Pope; expropriations in connection with Key plans; a payment to the Admiralty for work done in connection with the Cospicua Low Level Sewer; expenditure in connection with the Reformatory and Industrial School; and increased expenditure for the exploration and preservation of antiquities;

(*i*) "Public Works Department," £1,117 4*s.* 7*d.*, due to periodical increments of salaries; the transfer of the salaries of the employés of the Surveying Branch from Head XXVI.; purchase of instruments; and a new classification of draughtsmen.

Decreases.

15. The principal decreases occur under the following heads: (*a*) "Water Works and Electric Lighting," £3,585; (*b*) "Public Works Annually Recurrent Expenditure," £740; and (*c*) "Public Works Extraordinary," £6,806; and may be explained as follows:—

(*a*) By a reduction in the consumption of coal at the Electric Light Station, and a saving under renewals and extensions;

(*b*) By the transfer of salaries of the Survey Branch to Head XXIV.; and

(*c*) By a reduction in the number of works carried out during the year.

Public Works Recurrent and Extraordinary.

16. The expenditure on public works during the year was as follows:—

(i) From General Revenue:—	
(*a*) Annually Recurrent Expenditure	£57,299
(*b*) Extraordinary Works	11,805
(ii) From General Reserve Fund:—	
Extraordinary Works	471
(iii) From Immovable Property Account:—	
Extraordinary Works	1,192
	£70,767

Besides the above amount, expenditure amounting to £4,163 was authorised during the year under the "Malta Revenue and General Purposes Order in Council, 1901," for the following works, viz.:—

Under clause I., paragraph 1:—	
Schools	£2,590
Drainage	1,043
Under clause I., paragraph 2:—	
Cost of benches for Schools	530
	£4,163

(B.) Changes in Taxation.

17. There were no changes in taxation during the year 1903-4.

(C.) Assets and Liabilities.

18. On the 31st March, 1903, there was an excess of assets over liabilities amounting to £22,940, and on the 31st March, 1904, the assets exceeded the liabilities by £76,644, the increase during the twelve months being £53,704.

Details of the assets and liabilities, as they stood on the 31st March, 1904, are given in Appendix V.

Appendix VI. shows the investments in British and Colonial securities held by the Government, as they stood on 31st March, 1904.

(D.) Public Debt.

19. There is no public debt in Malta. Interest, however, at the rate of 2½ per cent. per annum is paid by the Government on the "Massa Frumentaria," the amount of which is the same as at the end of 1902-3.

The interest paid in 1903-4 amounted to £2,114 5*s.* 0*d.*

(E.) Currency.

Rates of Exchange.

20. There was no appreciable fluctuation in the bank rates of exchange for cheques and bills on London and France. The rate of exchange on Italy ranged between 25.0 and 25.60, the average rate being 25.06.

Coin in Circulation.

21. The amount of British coin in circulation in Malta is roughly calculated at £500,000, distributed in the following proportions:—

Sovereigns	£420,000
Half-sovereigns	20,000
Silver and bronze	60,000

22. The note circulation, which is restricted to the notes of two of the local banks, The Anglo-Maltese Bank, and Il Banco di Malta, is calculated to be about £15,000, but this cannot be ascertained exactly, as the banks do not publish any balance-sheets and are not subject to any statutory laws.

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

(A.) Imports and Exports.

23. The total value of dutiable goods imported in 1903-4 was £7,158,079, showing an increase of £595,281 over the value of the imports in the preceding year.

The increase is almost entirely found under wheat, which shows an advance of £579,899.

Of the total imports, £1,318,430 is the value of goods landed for local consumption, against £1,261,650 in 1902-3; and £5,839,649 the value of dutiable goods re-exported in the same bottoms, as against £5,301,148 in the previous year.

The following table shows the value of the imports in each of the five years preceding 1903-4, and the average value for that period compared with that of the imports in 1903-4:—

Year.	United Kingdom.	British Colonies.	H.M. Ships.	Foreign Countries.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£
1898	203,517	519,608	485	9,301,521	10,025,131
1899	297,830	408,685	2,255	5,960,191	6,668,961
1900	305,010	89,208	987	7,039,084	7,434,289
1901-2	426,404	139,237	2,083	9,511,507	10,079,231
1902-3	268,040	297,853	536	5,996,369	6,562,798
Average of five years	300,150	290,918	1,269	7,561,734	8,154,082
1903-4	292,483	355,293	457	6,509,846	7,158,079
Above average ...	—	64,375	—	—	—
Below average ...	7,677	—	812	1,051,888	996,003

Imports for Local Consumption.

24. The principal imports from the United Kingdom were:—

Beer, £111,099; wheat, £8,271; manufactured grain, £75,273; cotton seed oil, £15,459; potatoes, £14,153; spirits, £22,053; superior wines, £3,895; sugar. £18,200; and tobacco, £21,935.

From the British Colonies:—

Frozen beef and mutton, £35,525.

From foreign countries:—

Beer, £9,219; cattle, £214,533; sheep, £2,707; horses, £7,382; wheat, £183,132; barley, £10,391; saggina, £11,475; manufactured wheat, £61,832; olive oil, £55,245; cotton seed oil, £18,582; potatoes, £13,033; pulse, £89,452; seeds, £32,045; spirits, £10,823; wine, £114,646; petroleum, £35,392; sugar, £87,897; and tobacco, £30,065.

25. The following table shows the dutiable articles imported for local consumption in 1903-4, together with the amount of duty collected on each article, compared with the amount paid during the preceding twelve months:—

Articles.	1902–3.			1903–4.			Increase.			Decrease.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Wheat	37,486	9	2	52,545	17	10	15,059	8	8	—		
Indian Corn	208	19	0	241	8	9	32	9	9	—		
Barley	759	12	6	1,054	8	3	294	15	9	—		
Saggina	1,588	16	2	1,943	14	8	354	18	6	—		
Inferior Grain	29	10	7	34	12	4	5	1	9	—		
Manufactured Grain	50,269	18	10	41,363	3	10	—			8,906	15	0
Refuse Grain	3	15	4	7	3	7	3	8	3	—		
Refuse Manufactured Grain	10	12	9	19	15	4	9	2	7	—		
Petroleum	4,636	11	10	5,087	5	2	450	13	4	—		
Wine	50,746	17	10	48,963	7	8	—			1,783	10	2
Spirits	34,696	6	11	36,373	8	4	1,677	1	5	—		
Beer	31,840	11	8	32,364	1	2	523	9	6	—		
Vinegar	83	9	5	89	1	2	5	11	9	—		
Sugar	5,336	19	0	6,607	7	8	1,270	8	8	—		
Bullocks	15,183	18	1	15,605	16	2	421	18	1	—		
Sheep	416	9	0	333	13	3	—			82	15	9
Imported Meat	6,451	10	7	5,112	15	7	—			1,338	15	0
Horses	580	0	0	690	0	0	110	0	0	—		
Mules	42	0	0	56	0	0	14	0	0	—		
Tobacco	6,769	16	3	10,885	5	10	4,115	9	7	—		
Oil	3,092	8	9	3,204	15	6	112	6	9	—		
Potatoes	3,318	7	10	3,512	3	10	193	16	0	—		
Pulse	5,723	15	11	5,590	7	3	—			133	8	8
Seeds	2,822	17	6	2,566	4	4	—			256	13	2
Total	262,099	14	11	274,251	17	6	24,654	0	4	12,501	17	9

It will be observed that the total amount of duty collected in 1903-4 exceeded that of the previous year by £12,152. There is, in fact, an increase under all items, with the exception of manufactured grain, wine, cattle, pulse, and seeds, and the decrease under these items is comparatively small.

Causes of Increases and Decreases—Wheat and Flour.

26. The duty on wheat shows an increase of £15,059, and that on manufactured grain a decrease of £8,907. The increase in the quantity of wheat imported is 30,119 salms or quarters, and the decrease in manufactured grain 29,689 cantars, which corresponds to about 14,138 quarters of wheat. The decrease, therefore, in manufactured grain was wholly covered by the increase in wheat, and a balance of 15,981 quarters of wheat is left to be accounted for by other causes, such as the increase of the population, the improvement of their economic condition, and the large quantity of manufactured grain exported. This again is due to improvements introduced in the plant of the flour mills, which produce a fine quality of flour, competing favourably, as regards price, with that imported.

Other Grains, &c.—Indian Corn, Barley, Saggina, Inferior and Refuse Grains.

27. There was an increase of £700 in the total duty on these articles, which are principally used as food for animals. The largest increases were on barley (£295) and saggina (£355), which articles were very cheap during the year, with the result that larger quantities than usual were imported.

Pulse and Seeds.

28. On pulse and seeds there were decreases amounting to £133 and £257 respectively. These articles are also used for food for animals, and the decrease in their importation was compensated by the increases under saggina and barley.

Other Imports.

29. Bullocks, increase £422; sheep, decrease £83; imported meat, decrease £1,339.

The increase in the number of bullocks is due partly to the ordinary increase of the population, and partly to the presence of an increased number of men-of-war. The decrease on imported meat is due to the fact that an unusually large stock of frozen meat was imported at the end of the preceding year.

Oil.

30. Increase, £112. Oil was cheap and abundant during the last part of the year, and large consignments were consequently imported.

Petroleum and Tobacco.

31. The increases under these heads are £451 and £4,115 respectively, and are mainly attributable to the fact that the large quantities of petroleum and tobacco imported free of duty previous to the coming into force of the Order in Council of 1901 have been disposed of, and fresh stocks are being imported.

Sugar.

32. Increase, £1,270. This increase is due to the importation of large quantities of sugar during the last three months of the financial year, in view of an expected rise in prices, which did actually take place.

Potatoes.

33. Increase, £194, which is explained by the fact that large quantities of seed potatoes were imported during the year, the first consignments not having been found of good quality.

Spirits.

34. Increase, £1,677.

Beer.

Increase, £523.

Wine.

Decrease, £1,784.

The increases under spirits and beer may be accounted for by the ordinary increase of the population, and by the fact that these beverages are to some extent replacing wine, owing to the bad quality of the latter article. The decrease on wine is to be ascribed partly to this fact, and partly to the fact that unusually large stocks were imported from Spain and Greece during the preceding year.

EXPORTS.

35. The value of the dutiable goods exported in 1903-4, exclusive of local produce, was £6,145,883, as against £5,349,576 in 1902-3, there being an increase of £796,307.

36. The value of whole cargoes which were carried on in the same bottoms was £6,022,107, and that of the portions of cargoes which were landed and re-exported was £123,776.

37. The exports for the last five years are as follows:—

Year.	United Kingdom.	British Possessions.	H.M. Ships.	Foreign Countries.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£
1899	919,262	617,563	9,924	3,902,812	5,449,501
1900	1,100,924	814,929	7,716	4,547,998	6,471,567
1901-2	1,598,887	1,385,708	17,428	5,945,004	8,947,027
1902-3	1,444,868	758,835	21,563	3,124,310	5,349,576
1903-4	2,259,810	508,164	18,990	3,358,919	6,145,883

The principal exports to the United Kingdom in 1903-4 were:—

Wheat, £1,917,330; Indian corn, £8,935; barley, £241,089; inferior grain, £65,625; and pulse, £26,317; all of which goods proceeded in the same vessels in which they were imported.

To British possessions:—

Wheat, £287,675; Indian corn, £97,125; and barley, £122,850.

To foreign countries:—

Beer, £4,536; wheat, £2,516,887; Indian corn, £146,180; barley, £436,052; inferior grain, £139,760; manufactured grain, £6,570; olive oil, £13,630; potatoes, £797; pulse, £17,567; spirits, £4,333; wine, £2,864; petroleum, £2,347; sugar, £52,524; and tobacco, £13,340.

Local Produce.

38. The exports of local produce in 1903-4, as reported by the shipping agents, were as follows:—

——	Quantity.
	Cantars. Cwts.
Potatoes	133,301 = 208,283
Onions	3,262 = 5,098
Cummin seed	3,420 = 5,344
Vegetables	8,959 = 13,998
	Dozen.
Oranges	57,320
	No.
Goats and sheep	1,136
	Canes.
Cotton goods	700
	Crs.
„	672
	Bales.
„	114

Stone—slabs, 65,245; blocks, 244; and 857 tons in bulk.

The stone exported was as follows:—

To Italy, slabs 20,500 and 500 tons in bulk;
To Greece, slabs 15,045;
To Turkey, slabs 17,500 and 357 tons in bulk;
To Egypt, slabs 12,200;
To Holland, blocks 344.

(B.) Agricultural Industries and Botanic Stations.

Area of Land under Cultivation.

39. The total area under cultivation in 1903-4 was 38,748 acres, as against 38,675 acres in the previous year.

The land under cultivation is owned as follows:—

(*a*) By the Government	6,546	acres
(*b*) By the Church, including Pious Foundations	6,682	„
(*c*) By private individuals	25,520	„
Total ...	**38,748**	**acres**

Number of Holdings.

40. The number of holdings remains at about 10,000, with an average area of 3·88 acres per holding.

Very few farmers own the land which they cultivate, most of which is held on short leases of four or eight years. In cases where an unusual amount of labour and capital is required to render the land fit for cultivation, leases for 99 years are sometimes given.

Crops.

41. The chief agricultural products continue to be wheat, barley, "mischiato" (wheat and barley mixed), beans and other pulse, potatoes, onions, clover, vetches and cummin, besides oranges and other fruit trees.

42. The area under wheat, barley and "mischiato" was 13,510 acres in 1903-4, as against 13,424 in the previous year, an increase of 86 acres.

The total yield is estimated at 27,958 quarters of wheat and 12,044 of barley, as against 28,941 and 12,358 in 1902-3. This shows a falling-off of 983 quarters in wheat and 314 quarters in barley.

Beans and other Pulse.

43. The area under beans and other pulse in 1903-4 was 1,458 acres, as against 1,664 acres in the previous year. The decrease of 206 acres is due to a want of rain at the proper season, and to some extent also to the parasite "orobanche."

The following table shows the acreage planted with leguminous crops in 1903-4, as compared with that of the previous year:—

Crops.	1903-4. Acres.			1902-3. Acres.		
	Malta.	Gozo.	Total.	Malta.	Gozo.	Total.
Beans and pulse ...	1,687	817	2,504	1,757	920	2,677
Clover	4,264	1,476	5,740	5,079	1,505	6,584
Vetches	392	131	523	393	113	506
Total... ...	6,343	2,424	8,767	7,229	2,538	9,767

Potatoes.

44. The spring and winter crop of potatoes covered an area of 5,491 acres, as against 4,100 in 1902-3. Out of 143,614 cwts. of potatoes imported during the year, 80,390 cwts. were used as seed, 51,310 cwts. were consumed locally, and 11,914 cwts. were re-exported. Of the amount used as seed, 73,100 cwts. were imported from the United Kingdom, 3,840 cwts. from Austria, 3,000 cwts. from Italy, and 450 cwts. from France.

Great apprehensions were entertained of the failure of the spring crop, owing to the fact that the Irish seed imported during the year was found to be in bad condition, immature, and containing many rotten tubers. Local farmers were warned in time to be very careful in the selection of the seed, and to spray the crop with Bordeaux mixture as a preventive. Whole tracts of land in the East district, which were planted with potatoes early in November and December, had to be ploughed up through the sets not sprouting or becoming diseased in the first stage of growth. The appearance of the crop planted later on was not so bad, but the crop is estimated to be very much below the average of four tons per acre.

The total crop of potatoes was 336,560 cwts., of which 238,436 cwts. were exported, 33,428 cwts. consumed locally, and 15,634 cwts. kept as seed for the winter crop.

Onions.

45. The area planted with onions was 538 acres, as against 374 acres in 1902-3. The increase is due to the high prices which ruled during the year.

Cummin Seed.

46. Quite the reverse was the case with cummin seed. A portion of the previous year's produce was left unsold, and in 1903-4 only 776 acres were planted with this crop, as against 1,087 in 1902-3.

Oranges and other Fruit Trees.

47. In the orange growing industry the improvement noted in last year's report was maintained, and the damage wrought by the "fruit-fly" (*Ceratitis*) and the attacks of "scale-insects" were less severe. The crop was somewhat better and found an easy sale.

With the exception of the vine, little attention is given to other fruit trees, and no extensive plantation of fruit-bearing trees has lately been undertaken.

Steadfast progress is, however, being made with the cultivation of the grape-vine. It is hoped that henceforth the wine-producing sorts, for the produce of which there is always an open market, will be preferred to the old varieties producing table-grapes.

Cotton.

48. The acreage of land under cotton was raised from 699 in 1902-3 to 897 in 1903-4. Unfortunately, however, the same increase cannot be predicted for the current year on account of the deficient rainfall.

Clover, &c.

49. There was a decrease of 729 acres in the area planted with clover and other crops used for forage. The contraction is not due to any appreciable decrease in the number of live-stock to be fed, but to the failure of almost the whole crop of clover through lack of rain during the critical first stage of growth. Many fields sown during the summer months with clover had to be ploughed up on account of the drought. The crop was replaced by winter and spring sown wheat and barley, which account for the increased area under cereals.

Live Stock.

50. Compared with last year, the returns show a slight decrease in the number of equines, goats and pigs; whilst they show an increase in the number of horned cattle and sheep. Most of the horned cattle are imported and after being fattened, are sold for killing. A limited number are used for agricultural purposes.

Botanic Stations.

51. The Botanical Gardens are very limited in extent and are principally used for giving lectures in botany to students of the University; but among the objects of the gardens are the following:—

The formation of collections of plants, classified according to their natural affinities;

The systematic introduction of new plants to suit the soil and climate of the Maltese islands;

The distribution, by sale or exchange, of plants, seeds bulbs, &c.;

The spread of information, by correspondence or otherwise, on various branches of botany, including economic botany and agriculture;

The training of apprentices in the art of gardening;

The taking of earth temperatures at various depths;

The formation of a herbarium, and botanical library.

52. At the Government Experimental Farm various experiments were made in the culture of potatoes, wheat and vegetables, with good results.

(C.) Land Grants and General Value of Land.

53. There are two kinds of land tenure in Malta, viz.:—

(*a*) Freehold,

(*b*) Leasehold.

Leasehold land may be held either on "emphyteusis," *i.e.*, long lease, exceeding 16 years (generally 99 or 150 years), or on short lease, not exceeding 16 years.

The main difference between "emphyteusis" and a short lease is that, under the former, the tenant is, as a rule, bound to execute all necessary repairs to any buildings on the land, while under the latter, the landlord is responsible for the upkeep of the property, unless it has been otherwise agreed upon.

When the Government disposes of the freehold of any land, or grants it on "emphyteusis," the transaction is recorded by a deed, which is filed in the Public Registry, and no form of grant is given to the purchaser.

54. The usual term for which Government urban property is leased, varies from one to eight years according to the importance of the tenement, the longer term being usual when the rent is £50 or upwards. On the expiration of the term, the rent is revised, and the lessee is given the refusal of a new lease for another term at the revised rent, and if he agrees to the

revised rent, he is not ousted unless the Governor certifies that the tenement is required for a public purpose.

55. Rural property is, as a rule, granted on an eight years' lease.

56. In all cases, the new valuation approved by the Governor in Council is acted upon by the Director of Contracts, and a "lease paper" embodying the conditions of the lease is signed by the Governor and sent to the Director of Contracts as his final authority for entering into an agreement with the tenant; but, as the agreement may be either verbal or in writing, the tenant seldom troubles to have a formal lease made out, although forms are provided for the purpose.

57. The average value of land is approximately as follows:—

(*a*) Agricultural lands—

Irrigable	...	...	£180 per acre
Not irrigable	...	...	108 „

(*b*) Town lands—

In fortified towns, £30 per square "cane" = £5 14*s*. 3*d*. per square yard;

In suburbs, £2 10*s*. 0*d*. per square "cane" = £0 9*s*. 6¼*d*. per square yard.

58. The rents of town lands vary according to the position, title and other considerations.

The average rents of country lands are as follows:—

Irrigable, £1 10*s*. per tummolo = £5 8*s*. per acre;

Not irrigable, £0 15*s*. per tummolo = £2 14*s*. per acre.

(D.) Shipping.

59. The following table shows the number and tonnage of steamers and sailing vessels that entered and cleared during 1902-3 and 1903-4:—

Year.	Steamers.				Sailing Vessels.				Totals.	
	Entered.		Cleared.		Entered.		Cleared.			
	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.
1902–3	2,367	3,460,160	2,367	3,459,966	1,330	70,048	1,335	70,140	7,399	7,060,314
1903–4	2,414	3,526,884	2,414	3,525,955	1,211	67,390	1,193	65,039	7,232	7,185,268
Increase in 1903–4	47	66,724	47	65,989	—	—	—	—	—	124,954
Decrease in 1903–4	—	—	—	—	119	2,658	142	5,101	167	—

There is a decrease of 167 in ships, and an increase of 124,954 in tonnage.

In steamers there is an increase of 94 in number and 132,713 in tonnage, while sailing vessels show a decrease of 261 in number and 7,759 in tonnage.

The increase in the number and tonnage of steamships is due to a reduction in the price of coal in Malta during the year, as compared with the price at neighbouring ports.

Nationality of Steamship Tonnage.

60. The number of British ships which entered the ports of Malta in 1903-4 was 1,335, as against 1,337 in the previous year, and their tonnage was 2,464,464, as against 2,390,761, there being a decrease of two ships and an increase of 73,703 tons.

61. Foreign steamships showed a total of 1,079, with a tonnage of 1,062,420, as against 1,030 with a tonnage of 1,069,299 in 1902-3, an increase of 49 in ships with a decrease of 6,979, as follows:—

Nationality.	Ships.	Tonnage.
Austrian	476	324,279
Belgian	21	26,605
Danish	5	5,572
French	58	45,495
German	228	341,917
Greek	23	29,203
Dutch	38	34,381
Italian	171	173,018
Bulgarian	1	1,164
Norwegian ...	36	59,098
Russian	3	4,030
Spanish	6	5,169
Swedish	3	4,611
Turkish	8	2,604
Roumanian ...	1	1,452
Japanese	1	3,822
Total ...	1,079	1,062,420

62. The following table gives the tonnage of British and foreign shipping which entered and cleared in 1903-4 with cargoes, as distinguished from vessels in ballast, compared with the figures for 1902-3:—

	1902-3.			1903-4.		
	British.	Foreign	Total.	British.	Foreign	Total.
Entered ...	2,346,832	1,101,096	3,447,928	2,439,674	1,091,840	3,531,514
Cleared ...	2,112,306	1,032,006	3,144,312	2,206,565	1,011,210	3,217,775
Total...	4,459,138	2,133,102	6,592,240	4,646,239	2,103,050	6,749,289

It will be seen from the above table that there was a nett increase of 157,049 tons in 1903-4, there being an increase in British shipping of 187,101 tons, and a decrease of 30,052 tons in foreign shipping.

The total revenue collected by the Port Department during the year from tonnage dues was £6,610, being an increase of £80 over the previous year.

The subjoined return shows the total shipping entered and cleared for the last five years:—

Year.	Entered.		Cleared.	
	Number.	Tonnage.	Number.	Tonnage.
1899	3,560	3,297,712	3,580	3,292,942
1900	3,814	3,538,088	3,801	3,531,542
1901–2	3,930	3,693,252	3,922	3,695,705
1902–3	3,697	3,530,208	3,702	3,530,106
1903–4	3,625	3,594,274	3,607	3,590,994

III.—LEGISLATION.

63. Nineteen Ordinances were passed by the Legislature during the year 1903-4, some of the most important being:—

Ordinance IV. of 1903, relating to the office hours of the Public Registry;

Ordinance XVI. of 1903, relating to the use of the Royal Arms in connection with a trade, business, calling or profession;

Ordinance I. of 1904, amending and consolidating the laws relating to electric telegraphs;

Ordinance II. of 1904, to provide for the regulation and control of infant schools;

Ordinance III. of 1904, amending and consolidating the laws concerning food and drugs and drinking waters;

Ordinance IV. of 1904, relating to the translation into English of judicial acts; and

Ordinance V. of 1904, relating to public holidays.

Ordinance No. IV. of 1903.

64. The object of the Ordinance is to authorise the Public Registry to adopt the same office hours as other Government departments. The necessity for this Ordinance arose from the

fact that article 13 of Ordinance XII. of 1856, by which that office was established, provided that the Public Registry should be kept open from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. during the whole year, except on holidays, for the purpose of receiving notes for registration.

Ordinance No. XVI. of 1903.

65. This Ordinance was enacted in order to remove doubts which had arisen as to the validity of certain permits to make use of the Royal Arms in connection with a trade, business, calling or profession, which had been issued locally, and to regulate the issue of such permits in future.

The Ordinance enacts that, notwithstanding any law or regulation to the contrary, no person shall make use of the Royal Arms in connection with any trade, business, calling or profession unless he holds either (*a*) a warrant of appointment to His Majesty the King, Her Majesty the Queen, or a member of the Royal family now living, or (*b*) a warrant from the Government of Malta, issued with the authority of His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies.

Ordinance No. I. of 1904.

66. This Ordinance amends and consolidates the laws relating to electric telegraphs, and extends the provisions of those laws to wireless telegraphy.

The only new provisions are those relating to wireless telegraphy in article 2, those contained in article 38, and the additional powers given to the Head of the Government, with regard to the censorship of telegrams, in article 41.

Ordinance No. II. of 1904.

67. This Ordinance provides for the regulation and control of infant schools, of which a good many exist both in Malta and Gozo under the name of Dame Schools, and over which the Government had no control.

The Ordinance makes it unlawful for any person to open or keep an infant school without the permission of the Head of the Government, and authorises the Government to make such regulations as may be necessary with regard to the buildings in which they may be kept.

Ordinance No. III. of 1904.

68. This is one of the most important Ordinances which have passed in recent years.

The law relating to food and drugs was contained in Ordinances Nos. XIV. of 1859, IX. of 1888, and III. of 1903. The provisions of these Ordinances, with certain amendments, have been embodied in the new Ordinance, and a number of additional provisions which experience had shown to be necessary have also been included. The additional provisions are mainly intended to prevent—

(*a*) the importation and sale of articles of food and beverages which are unfit for consumption;

(*b*) the sale of articles different in substance or in quality from those asked for by the purchaser.

The Ordinance is divided into four chapters. The first chapter contains general provisions, applying to all kinds of food and beverages.

The second chapter contains special provisions relating to the various kinds of food, and is subdivided into sixteen sections, each of which deals with a particular kind of food or drink.

The third chapter deals with markets and shops in which articles of food and beverages are kept or sold; and the last chapter contains the penal provisions.

Ordinance No. IV. of 1904.

69. This Ordinance amends the provisions of article 30 of the Laws of Organisation and Civil Procedure and of article 404 of the Criminal Laws, which deals with the translation into English of judicial acts.

It enacts that any act initiative of proceedings, which is served through the Registry of any Court of Justice, shall be written in English and Italian; but that all other legal documents subsequent to, and dependent on any of the said initiative acts, shall be written in English as well as in Italian at the request of the person upon whom the initiative act is served, and on his declaring that he is a British subject, not born or naturalised in Malta or its Dependencies.

Article 404 of the Criminal Laws has been amended in the sense that any citation, summons or warrant, which is to be served in any proceedings of the Courts of Judicial Police, shall be written in English as well as in Italian, in all cases in which it does not appear, on the face of the document, that the person indicted is not born or naturalised in Malta.

Ordinance No. V. of 1904.

70. Previous to the passing of this Ordinance, the Head of the Government had no statutory power to appoint public holidays in addition to those fixed by law, viz., Sundays and holidays of obligation, Good Friday, and the birthday of the Sovereign.

The necessary power is now given to the Head of the Government, and the Ordinance also contains provisions in regard to

bills of exchange or promissory notes the payment or acceptance of which may fall on a day which has been declared a public holiday.

71. The other Acts passed during the year, which were not of a private character, were confined to short amendments of previous legislation, and to appropriations of revenue for the different branches of the public service.

IV.—EDUCATION.

(A.) Primary Education.

72. Primary education is imparted in the elementary schools, of which there are 38 for boys and 39 for girls, besides six infant schools.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS.

Day Schools.

73. The number of day schools in Malta and Gozo in 1903-4 was 96, which are distributed as follows:—

—	Malta.	Gozo.	Total.
Boys	29	9	38
Girls	30	9	39
Infants	5	1	6
Drawing (Boys)	5	0	5
Drawing (Girls)	5	0	5
Wood-carving	2	0	2
Sunday School (Secular Instruction) ...	1	0	1
Total	77	19	96

Night Schools.

74. The number of night schools in Malta and Gozo was the same as in the previous year, viz., 28 in Malta, and five in Gozo.

School Accommodation.

75. A new infant school was opened at Senglea in October, 1903, and 450 infants and other pupils were admitted, the present requirements of that centre being thus satisfied.

The infant classes attached to the girls' elementary schools were increased from 25 in 1902-3 to 47 in 1903-4, including 22 sections for boys and 26 for girls.

Large new school premises were also opened at Zurrico in January last, where over 80 children were admitted, and the erection of the new school at Valletta has made considerable progress during the year.

The Government, however, has not yet overtaken the demand for admission. There were, in fact, 3,245 children, against 4,462 in 1902-3, still waiting admission. The necessity, therefore, of erecting suitable and adequate school premises at different centres is becoming still imperative, and the work of providing the necessary buildings will be carried on as rapidly as the finances of the Colony will permit.

Number of Admissions.

76. The number of children admitted during the year was 7,381, as against 6,000 in 1902-3; and the number of those who left school during the year was 4,496, as compared with 4,847 in 1902-3. Of these, 51 pupils were appointed monitors or monitresses in the elementary schools, 33 passed into the Lyceum, 23 were successful at the competitive examinations for apprenticeships in H.M. Dockyard, 15 were admitted, after a qualifying examination, to the Archiepiscopal Seminary, 5 to the Bishop's Seminary at Gozo, 38 to the Secondary School, Gozo, one was appointed to a post in the Public Works Department, and another to a post in the Technical School.

It is regretted that the majority of the rest who left school during the year were children of very tender age, no legislation being yet possible to fix the age at which children may leave school.

Attendance.

77. The attendance in the day schools on 1st September, 1903, which is generally taken as the beginning of the scholastic year, was 15,889, as against 14,628 on the same date in 1902, an increase of 1,261. The attendance compares favourably with that of former years, the highest attendance in 1903-4 being 17,151 against 15,594 in the previous year, and the lowest 12,659 against 12,242.

The percentage of the average annual attendance to the average annual enrolment was 89·3, as compared with 84·6 in 1902-3.

The night schools were attended by 2,111 pupils at the beginning of the scholastic year (1st October, 1903), as compared with 1,887 on the corresponding date in 1902.

The highest attendance was 2,262, and the lowest 972; and the average annual attendance was 639 or 56·6 per cent. on the average annual enrolment of 1,130 against 59·0 in 1902-3.

The falling-off in the attendance in the night schools is attributable to the increased demand for labour generally, but especially for the work in the dockyard extension and for the construction of the breakwater. To get to work men had, in many cases, to go a considerable distance away from home, and the attendance of the night schools suffered in consequence.

The total enrolment of pupils at the beginning of the scholastic year in both the day and night schools was 18,000, against 16,515 in 1902-3; and the average enrolment 15,337, as compared with 15,227; the average attendance being 13,423 in 1903-4 and 12,475 in 1902-3, or a percentage of 87·5, against 81·9 in the previous year.

Selection of Language of Colloquial Instruction on Admission to Infant Schools and in Standards I., II. and III.

78. Out of 6,821 parents, who selected the language of colloquial instruction for their children on their being admitted to the infant schools, or on their being promoted to Standards I. and II., 86·0 per cent. declared for English, as against 81·4 per cent. in 1902-3, and 14·0 per cent. for Italian, as compared with 18·6 per cent. in the previous year.

In the case of admissions or promotions to Standard III., out of 3,652 parents who selected the secondary language of instruction for their children in 1903-4, 92·8 per cent. chose English, as compared with 85·4 per cent. in 1902-3, and 7·2 per cent. declared for Italian, as against 14·6 per cent. in the previous year, thus showing an increase of 7·4 per cent. in favour of English.

Choice of Language of Examination in higher Standards.

79. The number of parents or guardians of pupils attending the higher standards, who made a choice of the language in which they desired their children to be examined, was 1,082, as against 1,084 in 1902-3. Of these 49·7 per cent. selected English only, as against 30·7 per cent. in 1902-3; 49·4 per cent. chose English and Italian, as against 68·7 per cent. in 1902-3; 0·9 per cent. chose Italian only, as against 0·6 per cent. in 1902-3.

Annual Examinations.

80. The annual examinations were held, as last year, between February and July. 11,875 pupils were individually examined, and 10,393, or 87·5 per cent., passed with an average percentage of 74·4 marks, as compared with 85·8 per cent. passes with an average percentage of 74·7 marks in 1902-3.

The results of the examinations, as indicated by the above figures as well as by the higher standard of proficiency which the children are now expected to show, are considered to be satisfactory.

Teachers.

81. The number of assistant teachers of the elementary schools sent to England for training in 1903 was only two, as against three male and three female teachers sent in 1902. No female teachers were sent, as it was considered that the candidates who presented themselves would acquire greater advantages by attending for a further period of twelve months at the

local training school, and be thus better prepared to profit by the training course in England.

The special Preparatory Training Class started here in October, 1903, was formed of seven male and seven female students, and from them the requisite number of teachers will be selected by competitive examination to go to England in August, 1904.

The two male and two female students sent in 1901 returned to Malta on the completion of their course, and were given charge of schools in Malta and Gozo. The results obtained by the above teachers at their respective colleges were satisfactory, and they were highly spoken of by the college authorities.

The number of teachers in the elementary schools who have been trained in England has now increased to 14 males and 15 females, out of a total staff of 35 masters and 42 mistresses.

Cost of Schools.

82. The total cost of the Elementary Schools Department in 1903-4 was £22,905, as compared with £20,101 in the previous year, exclusive of £500 in both years for the training of teachers in England, and of the cost of erection or repair of buildings.

Of the above total cost, £19,159 was for "Personal Emoluments" and £3,746 for "Other Charges," as against £16,735 and £3,366 respectively, in the previous year.

The average cost of each pupil, calculated by the enrolment at the beginning of the scholastic year, was 25*s.* 5*d.*; calculated by the average annual enrolment, it was 29*s.* 10*d.*; and by the average annual attendance 34*s.* 1*d.*, as against an equal rate in 1902-3.

(B.) Secondary Education.

83. The establishments in which secondary and higher education is given are as follows:—

(*a*) Secondary Education—

Secondary School for Girls, Valletta;
Secondary School for Boys, Gozo;
The Lyceum, Valletta.

(*b*) Higher Education—

The University, Valletta.

(*a.*) SECONDARY EDUCATION.

Secondary School for Girls, Valletta.

84. This school was attended by 173 students in 1903, as against 167 in 1902, the percentage of attendances being 78 against 86 in 1902.

26 students of this school entered for the Oxford Local Examination, held in July last, viz., ten in the preliminary class, eleven junior and five senior candidates.

All the seniors passed, obtaining the 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th places in the local order of merit, and were awarded certificates of "Associates of Arts," the candidate who passed second carrying off a Government prize of £8.

Of the juniors eight passed, taking the 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 8th, 10th, 11th and 12th places in local order of merit. The candidate who was placed second passed in third class honours and obtained a Government prize of £6; the candidate who obtained the fourth place won a prize of £3.

Two of the candidates who entered for the preliminary examination were not examined. Of the others, two passed, taking 2nd and 3rd places in local order of merit, the former obtaining 3rd class honours and receiving a Government prize of £4, while the latter was bracketed 2nd, with "distinction" in German, and obtained a prize of £2.

Three over-age candidates also passed.

Nine candidates from this school entered for the examinations in connection with the Science and Art Section of the Board of Education, South Kensington, London. The subject taken up was mathematics, 1st stage. Five passed—two in the 1st class and three in the 2nd class.

Secondary School for Boys, Gozo.

85. This school was attended by 46 students in 1903, viz., 10 in the higher class and 36 in the lower class, and the percentage of attendances was 92, as against 95 in 1902.

Lyceum.

86. The Lyceum was attended by 527 students in 1903, against 442 in 1902.

The percentage of attendances was as follows:—

Scholastic Year.

1901–2.			1902–3.		
Average No. of students on register.	Average daily attendance.	Average percentage of attendance.	Average No. of students on register.	Average daily attendance.	Average percentage of attendance.
514	436·9	85	527	458·49	87

The number of boys admitted in 1903 was 71 out of 133 candidates, as against 78 out of 162 in 1902.

At the annual examinations held in July, 277 students were examined in English and 270 in Italian; the number of passes in the former language was 273, or 99 per cent., and in the latter 213, or 79 per cent.

In 1903 examinations were held in Malta for the first time, in connection with the Science and Art Department of the Board of Education. 21 Lyceum students entered for the examination in art, and one for the examination in science. Of the candidates in the art division seven were successful—three obtaining places in the 1st class, and four, places in the 2nd class; the science candidate failed.

(*B.*) HIGHER EDUCATION.

The University, Valletta.

87. The total number of students attending the University in 1902-3 was 99, against 105 in the previous year.

The percentage of attendances was as follows:—

—	Scholastic Year.					
	1901–2.			1902–3.		
	Average number of students on register.	Average daily attendance.	Average percentage of attendance.	Average number of students on register.	Average daily attendance.	Average percentage of attendance.
Faculty of Theology	26	20·28	78	22	14·96	68
Faculty of Law	9	7·74	86	27	22·41	83
Faculty of Medicine	4	3·48	87	4	3·64	91
Faculty of Literature and Science	66	53·46	81	46	37·72	82

Matriculation Examination.

88. A matriculation examination is held twice every year, in July and September. Candidates who fail in the first examination are allowed to compete again in the second.

In 1903, out of 96 candidates examined, 52 were successful, as against 25 out of 53 in 1902.

Of the candidates who passed, five obtained honours.

With regard to the choice of language at the Matriculation Examination, it may be stated that both English and Italian were taken up by all the candidates; and that of the 22 who were successful in the first examination all passed in English and 19 in Italian, while of the 30 successful candidates in the second examination, seven passed in English only and three in Italian only, and 20 passed in both English and Italian.

89. The University of Malta was admitted, in February, 1903, by the Convocation of the University of Oxford to the privileges conferred by the statute of that University on Colonial and Indian Universities.

90. The cost per student was as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
Secondary School (Girls)	2	0	0
Secondary School (Boys)	7	11	3
Lyceum	8	0	0
University	36	0	0

(C.) Industrial, Technical, and Educational Schools.

91. The Industrial School, which was opened at the beginning of 1904, will be administered as one institution with the Reformatory, when the latter is completed, and information regarding this school will be found under the head of "Government Institutions."

92. A Technical and Manual School, in which drawing, modelling in clay, plaster-casting, stucco-work and wood-carving are taught, has been in existence for some years. The attendance is voluntary and no fees are paid, and as the results obtained hardly justify the expenditure involved, it has been decided to close the school as soon as some work which it has undertaken for a private individual is completed, and to develop the technical education which is given in the elementary schools.

During 1903-4, the number of pupils who attended the school was 14, as against 12 in 1902-3. One of the pupils obtained a 2nd class pass in model drawing in the Science and Art Examinations mentioned above, and another a similar pass in freehand drawing.

93. There are no agricultural schools in the Colony.

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS

(A.) Hospitals.

94. The hospitals maintained by the Government are as follows:—

Central Hospital, Valletta.
Seamen's Hospital, Valletta.
S. Spirito Hospital, Rabato.
Contagious Diseases Hospital, Manoel Island.
General Hospital, Gozo.
Contagious Diseases Hospital, Gozo.

(B.) Asylums.

95. There are three asylums in Malta, viz.:—

Lunatic Asylum, Salvatore.
Orphan Asylum, Valletta.
Leper Asylum, Imghieret.

The Leper Asylum adjoins, and is administered in connection with, the Poor House. There are no asylums in Gozo.

(C.) Poor Houses.

96. There are two poor-houses, one in Malta and one in Gozo, in which a large number of aged and infirm paupers and incurables are maintained at the Government expense.

General Remarks.

97. The total number of persons relieved and maintained in the hospitals, asylums, and poor-houses during the year was 6,636, as against 6,439 in 1902-3. In addition to these, 102,036 persons were treated by the District Medical Officers at the different Government dispensaries and at their own residences, as against 102,696 in the previous year. Pecuniary assistance amounting to £3,355 was given to 2,442 persons, as against £3,163 given to 2,546 persons in 1902-3.

The total cost of the charitable institutions, exclusive of works, was £58,164, as against £54,873 in the previous year.

Details of the number of persons treated in the different institutions, and the cost per head, will be found in Appendix IX.

Monte di Pietà.

98. The total amount advanced on pledges by the Monte di Pietà, which ranks as a charitable institution, was £33,963 on

22,990 articles, as against £32,149 on 23,981 articles in 1902-3, and the number of pledges redeemed was 24,848, as against 24,583 in the previous year.

Industrial School.

99. The Industrial School, alluded to in paragraph 91, was opened in March last. The building in which it is located was originally intended for a reformatory, but on completion it was found to be in many ways unsuited for that purpose, and it was, therefore, decided to use it for the Industrial School, and to build a new reformatory on the site intended for the school.

The school is being conducted by the Salesian Fathers at the request of the Government. The site of the school and reformatory and a sum of £1,000 towards the cost of the building were given by one private individual, and a sum of £1,000 towards the cost of building a chapel by another; but all other expenses, including the whole cost of maintenance, fall on the Government. Accommodation will be provided for boys who may be committed to the school by the Courts, and the Salesian Fathers are allowed to take in a certain number of voluntary pupils by private arrangement with their parents and guardians.

Subsidized Institutions.

100. The private institutions which receive assistance from the Government were the same as last year, viz., the Casa di San Giuseppe, the Convent of the Good Shepherd, and the Crêche conducted by the Ursuline Sisters. The first-named has maintained a daily average of 40 boys throughout the year; in the Convent the daily average numbers of orphans and penitent women were 60 and 35 respectively, and in the Valletta Crêche there was a daily average of about 50 children, and about the same number at a branch which has recently been opened at Sliema.

(D.) Reformatory.

101. There is at present no reformatory in existence, but one is in course of construction (*vide* paragraph 99 above), and when completed will supply a long-felt want.

(E.) Savings Bank.

Period of Account.

102. In accordance with an amendment of the regulations, the bank's accounts are now closed on the 31st March in each year, instead of on the 31st December. This year's report, therefore, comprises the figures for the period from 1st January, 1903, to 31st March, 1904.

Transactions of the Bank.

103. The transactions of the Savings Bank during the above period are given in Appendix VII.

Deposits and Withdrawals.

104. The number of depositors on the 31st March, 1904, was 8,177, and the amount standing to their credit was £595,897, of which £569,439 were invested.

The deposits made during the 15 months preceding the above date amounted to £181,772 and the withdrawals to £168,325, the excess of deposits over withdrawals being £13,447.

Cost of Working.

105. The expenses of management and the interest credited to depositors amounted to £12,500, while the revenue derived from interest on investments, unappropriated deposits, and the sale of pass-books was £18,202, leaving a nett profit to the Government of £5,702 on the 15 months' transactions.

Transactions of last Five Years.

106. The following table shows the transactions of the bank for the last five years. It will be noticed that there has been a steady increase, both in the number of depositors and the total amount deposited.

Year.	No. of Depositors at end of year.	Deposits.	Withdrawals.	Total amount to Credit of Depositors at end of year.
		£	£	£
1899 ...	6,750	105,195	109,797	522,148
1900 ...	6 960	115,157	109,492	535,571
1901 ...	7,177	120,109	117,229	546,492
1902 ...	7,561	129,145	112,898	571,452
1903–4 ... (15 months)	8,177	181,772	168,318	595,897

Assets and Liabilities.

107. Appendix VIII. shows the assets and liabilities of the Savings Bank on the 31st March, 1904.

VI.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

(A.) Police.

108. The report of the Superintendent of Police on the working of the force under his command was received too late to be incorporated in this report. The nominal strength of the force on the 31st March, 1904, was 32 officers and 418 non-commissioned officers and men, and the actual strength, 27 officers and 389 non-commissioned officers and men.

(B.) Prisons.

109. The following table gives the total number of persons imprisoned in 1903-4:—

—	Remaining on 1st April, 1903-4.	Admitted during 1903-4.	Total.	Discharged, Transferred, &c.	Died.	Remaining on 31st March, 1904.
Corradino Prison—						
Criminal Prisoners...	232	4,399	4,631	4,336	1	294
Debtors	1	6	7	6	—	1
Gozo Prison—						
Criminal Prisoners...	10	471	481	480	—	1
Debtors	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total ...	243	4,876	5,119	4,822	1	296

Admissions.—The number of prisoners admitted during the year was 4,876, as against 4,760 in 1902-3, as shown below:—

—	1902-3.			1903-4.		
	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.
Corradino—						
From Local Courts	3,898	186	4,084	4,038	269	4,307
„ Courts Martial... ...	79	—	79	91	—	91
Consular Prisoners	—	—	—	1	—	1
Debtors	4	—	4	6	—	6
Gozo—						
From Local Courts	577	16	593	495	12	471
Debtors	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	4,558	202	4,760	4,631	281	4,876

110. The following table shows the total number of persons imprisoned in 1903-4:—

	Adults.			Juveniles			Grand Total.		
	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.
Under sentence of death	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Imprisonment with hard labour.	337	4	341	1	—	1	338	4	342
Imprisonment without hard labour.	277	44	321	9	—	9	286	44	330
Detention	3,343	219	3,562	611	3	614	3,954	222	4,176
Intermediate custody ...	242	11	253	11	—	11	253	11	264
Debtors	7	—	7	—	—	—	7	—	7
Total	4,206	278	4,484	632	3	635	4,838	281	5,119

Breaches of Discipline.

111. The conduct of the prisoners was good on the whole, and although prison offences increased in number, as compared with 1902-3, in no case was it necessary to have recourse to corporal punishment, the offences committed being generally of a minor character.

The punishments inflicted were 301, viz.:—

Admonished	133
Solitary confinement on ordinary diet ...	104
Solitary confinement on bread and water ...	49
Reduction in class	11
Loss of good conduct stripes	4

During the year there were 33 prisoners in Section E, 10 in D, 32 in C, 43 in B, and the remainder in A.

Health of Prisoners.

112. The health of the prisoners was good, the prevailing diseases being gastric and intestinal disorders, rheumatism and debility. There were seven admissions in hospital during the year, and the daily average on the sick list was 14, as compared with four in the previous year. One death occurred during the year from valvular lesion of the heart. An inquest was held at the Central Hospital.

Employment of Prisoners.

113. The prisoners were employed as tailors, joiners, masons, painters, plasterers, shoemakers, stainers, tinsmiths, plumbers,

broom and mat makers, cooks, and also in reclaiming waste land, pumping water, cleaning and jobbing, patching and knitting, washing and in attending sick prisoners.

The daily average number of prisoners so employed was 120, viz., 112 males and eight females, and the value of the work done is estimated at £1,270, of which £158 1*s.* 10*d.* is the value of the produce of the prison's lands.

Revenue.

114. The receipts under the head of "Reimbursements" were as follows:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Maintenance of consular and naval convicts	598	1	0
Sale of prison manufactures ...	100	8	0
Sale of produce of lands ...	158	1	10
Total ...	£856	10	10

Expenditure.

115. The total cost of the prisons for the year was £4,317 19*s.* 2*d.*, as against £4,326 16*s.* 2*d.* in 1902-3, distributed as follows:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Corradino Prison	4,193	15	6
Gozo Prison	124	3	8
Total ...	£4,317	19	2

The net cost of the prisons was, therefore, £2,349 10*s.* 2*d.*, against £2,680 16*s.* 0*d.* in 1902-3, or a saving of £331 5*s.* 10*d.*

(C.) Criminal Statistics.

116. The total number of offences reported to the police during the year was as follows:—

Crimes	2,302
Contraventions	17,528
Total ...	19,830

As compared with the number reported during the previous year there is an increase of 4,711 offences.

The number of offences dealt with by the Courts was as follows:—

—	Malta.	Gozo.	Total.
Crimes	878	114	992
Contraventions	15,323	1.208	16,531
Total	16,201	1,322	17,523

The number of offences which were not dealt with by the courts was, therefore, 2,307, or 11·63 per cent.

The number of crimes reported to the police, the perpetrators of which were not discovered, was 368, or 10·06 per cent. of the total number reported, but no serious crimes remained undetected. The undetected crimes were chiefly thefts in private dwellings, and thefts of crops and fruit.

117. The following table shows the distribution of the offences according to the various police divisions:—

Division.	Crimes.	Contraventions.	Total.
"A" Valletta, Floriana	251	5,606	5,857
"B" Hamrun, Misida	124	2,071	2,195
"C" Cottonera	73	693	766
"D" Rabato, Notabile, Dingli, Siggieui	52	631	683
"F" Curmi, Luca, Zebbug	68	1,508	1,576
"G" Zurrico, Crendi, Micabiba, Chircop, Safi	13	437	450
"H" Zeitun, Zabbar, Gudia, Axiak, Tarxen, Paola	76	1,037	1,113
"I" Sliema, St. Julian's	64	1,088	1,152
"K" Birchircara, Lia, Balzan, Attard, Naxaro, Gargur	51	943	994
"L" Musta St Paul's Bay, Melleha	37	307	344
"M" Gozo	114	1,208	1,322
Marina	69	1,002	1,071
Total	992	16,531	17,523

118. The offences reported may be roughly classified as follows:—

Against the person	1,391
Against the good order of families...	159
Against property	626
Other offences	17,654
Total ...	19,830

119. The total number of persons apprehended by the police and summoned before the magistrates was 17,523, as against 15,722 in 1902-3. They were dealt with as follows:—

Summarily convicted	16,014
Committed for trial	221
Acquitted	267
Discharged for want of evidence or in default of prosecution ...	1,021
Total ...	17,523

120. The punishments inflicted on the persons who were summarily convicted were as follows:—

Imprisoned	231
Fined	13,127
Fined and imprisoned	13
Bound over	47
Admonished	2,596
Total ...	16,014

It will be noticed that the number of cases in which the convicted person was simply "admonished" amounts to no less than 16·21 per cent. of the total number of convictions, which robs proceedings in the police courts of a good deal of the effect which they are intended to produce.

Superior Courts.

121. The total number of persons tried by the Criminal Court during the year was 221, as against 186 in the previous year, and the results were as stated below:—

—	1902-3.	1903-4.
Convicted	136	134
Acquitted	50	87
Total	186	221

It will be observed that while there was an increase of 35 in the number of persons tried, the number of convictions was actually less than in the previous year, and there was a considerable increase in the number of acquittals.

122. The crimes of the persons convicted were as follows:—

Murder	1
Attempted murder	1
Manslaughter	1
Concealment of birth	1
Offences against the person	55
Offences against property	24
Offences against the family	14
Robbery with violence	6
False evidence	2
Miscellaneous offences	29
Total ...	134

123. The number of cases dealt with in the civil courts was as follows:—

—	Pending on 1st April, 1903.	Instituted in 1903-4.	Total.	Decided.	Discontinued.	Pending on 31st March, 1904.
Civil Court—First Hall ...	303	1,453	1,762	919	456	387
Commercial Court	149	777	926	532	263	131
Court of Appeal	71	175	246	133	35	78
Appeals from Inferior Courts...	8	65	73	56	13	4

Of the 1,453 cases instituted in the Civil Court, First Hall, 828 were for the determination of a point of fact or law, and 625 for the recovery of stated sums of money, amounting in the aggregate to £18,424.

In the Commercial Court 174 cases were instituted for the determination of a point of fact or law, and 603 for the recovery of sums amounting to £26,402.

The business transacted in the Civil Court, Second Hall, was as follows:—

Applications disposed of	1,452
Secret wills deposited	35
Secret wills withdrawn	27
Deposits made	£19,305

Sales and Transfers of Property.

124. 53 sales of immovable property for sums amounting to £13,566, and 40 sales of movable property for sums amounting to £999, were effected during the year in the superior courts.

Translation Branch.

125. In the year under review, 11,788 documents were translated in the superior courts, as against 9,438 in 1902 and 9,624 in 1901. In consequence, however, of the promulgation of Ordinance No. IV. of 1904, whereby the translation of judicial acts was limited to the initial acts, it is estimated that the translation work will be reduced by about one-fifth.

Courts of Judicial Police.

126. The following table shows the business transacted by the Civil and Criminal Branches of the Police Courts:—

Malta Courts.

—	Valletta.	Country Districts.	Total.
Civil Branch—			
Citations	3,496	1,714	5,210
Subpœnas	565	721	1,286
Warrants	843	288	1,131
Appeals	34	38	72
Deposits	192	137	329
Other acts	3,010	668	3,678
Cases decided...	1,486	704	2,190
Cases settled	2,001	1,010	3,011
Criminal Branch—			
Cases decided...	8,242	1,948	10,190
Criminal investigations	233	—	233
Appeals	22	12	34
Applications from aliens	327	—	327
Applications in sanitary cases ...	163	—	163
Inquests	203	—	203

Gozo Courts.

The number of cases brought before the Courts of Gozo during the year was 1,693, as follows:—

Superior Jurisdiction—		
1st Instance	69	
2nd Instance	16	
Inferior Jurisdiction—		
1st Instance	474	
2nd Instance	11	
Criminal Branch	1,123	
Total ...	1,693	

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

(A.) Population.

127. The population on the 31st March, 1904, was estimated at 197,070, or an increase of 3,755 over the estimated population on the 31st March, 1903. This estimate is arrived at by adding the excess of births over deaths and of arrivals over departures during the year to the population of the previous year.

Births.

128. The number of births registered during the year was as follows:—

Males	3,806
Females	3,367
Total ...	7,173

which represents a general birth-rate of 37·69 per mille, as against 38·69 per mille in 1902-3.

Deaths.

129. The number of deaths recorded was as follows:—

Males	2,470
Females	2,349
Total ...	4,819

The death-rate was 24·45 per mille, as against 25·03 per mille in 1902-3.

Marriages.

130. The number of marriages was 1,409, as against 1,536 in the previous year, of which 1,276 took place in Malta and 133 in Gozo.

(B.) Public Health.

General Remarks.

131. The general state of the public health was good. The percentage of deaths among children under five years of age was 51·81, as against 50·87 in 1902-3, but the general death-rate was lower, as shown above. There were 288 deaths from zymotic diseases, or 5·7 per cent. of the total number of deaths.

The death-rate in the urban (drained) area and in the suburban (partially drained) area was 24·83 per mille, as against 25·59 per mille for last year. The death-rate in the rural area was 24·19, as against 24·78 last year.

The number of cases of measles, diphtheria, and small-pox, which occurred during the year, and the number of deaths from each disease is shown in the following table:—

	1902-3.		1903-4.	
	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.
Measles	1,191	49	414	22
Diphtheria... ...	147	55	124	57
Small-pox	10	2	50	10

The decrease in the number of cases of measles is due to the fact that in 1902-3 the disease prevailed in an epidemic form, while in the year under review there were no extraordinary outbreaks.

Although the number of cases of diphtheria was less than in 1902-3, the number of deaths was higher. This may possibly be due to medical assistance having been resorted to when it was too late to be of any avail.

There were two outbreaks of small-pox during the year, the disease having been imported on each occasion, in the former case from Tunis and in the latter from Sicily. The usual measures were taken to prevent the spread of the disease, and it did not assume serious proportions.

Fevers.

132. There were 706 cases of fevers and 99 deaths, against 848 cases and 103 deaths last year.

(C.) Sanitation.

133. A comprehensive scheme for the drainage of the large towns and the principal villages in the two Islands has been drawn up, and the work is being carried out as rapidly as the resources of the Colony will permit. The drainage of the Three Cities is practically completed, and that of the large suburbs of Sliema and St. Julian's is well advanced. The drainage of Hamrun (another large and populous suburb) and Notabile is now in hand.

(D.) Climate.

134. The meteorological returns for the year 1903 will be found in the following table:—

Month.	Temperature.					Rainfall.		Winds.	
	Solar Maximum.	Shade Maximum.	Shade Minimum.	Range, Mean Daily.	Mean Temperature.	Number of Inches.	Mean Degree of Humidity.	General Direction.	Average Force, 0–10.
January ...	124·0	65·3	49·3	6·2	56·1	3·230	84·4	S. & E.	3·2
February ...	133·0	64·0	44·6	7·7	54·8	1·610	86·5	W. & N.	2·9
March ...	133·0	64·9	46·8	7·3	57·3	0·760	82·9	W. & N.W.	3·0
April ...	133·0	69·4	50·5	6·5	58·5	0·910	78·4	W. & N.W.	4·2
May	136·2	79·5	55·0	9·6	66·5	0·035	79·2	E. & S.E.	2·9
June... ...	141·2	84·9	62·6	8·8	70·9	0·090	77·1	N.W. & N.	3·2
July... ...	148·0	90·7	65·0	13·2	74·9	0·000	73·1	N.W. & S.W.	2·0
August ...	151·0	94·3	68·0	13·6	77·6	0·000	76·1	N.W. & N.	2·3
September ...	157·0	95·7	64·0	9·3	74·5	1·130	79·9	E. & N.W.	3·6
October ...	143·0	81·3	59·5	10·5	69·9	0·255	75·1	S. & N.W.	2·0
November ...	133·0	74·5	53·0	9·8	61·7	3·125	70·6	S. & S.W.	2·8
December ...	123·0	68·2	45·3	8·8	57·5	3··50	81·3	S. & S.W.	4·0

The highest temperature in shade was 95°·7 on the 13th September, and the lowest 44°·6 on the 18th February. The mean temperature for the year was 65°·01.

The spring and autumn months did not show any marked difference in temperature from the corresponding periods of 1902, but in the summer months—June, July, August and September—the temperature was 3·5 degrees below the mean for the summer of 1902, and as the prevailing winds were N.W. and W., the summer heat was very noticeably below the average.

The rainfall for the year was 14·695 inches, against 23·660 in 1902. In the spring months 1·5 inches more rain fell than in the same period of 1902, but in the months of September, October, November, and December the rainfall was 10 inches below that of the same months in 1902.

The prevailing winds were S. on 52 days; N.W. on 50 days; and W. on 38 days; the average velocity of the wind per hour being 9·2 miles.

VIII.—POSTAL, TELEGRAPH, AND TELEPHONE SERVICES.

(A.) Post Office.

135. The following table gives details of the postal matter dealt with in 1903-4 and in the preceding year:—

Articles.	1902–3.		1903–4.	
	Received.	Despatched.	Received.	Despatched.
Letters	2,185,734	1,092,866	1,498,861	1,951,339
Post Cards	209,907	104,953	191,685	320,684
Printed Matter ...	799,390	399,695	942,383	425,373
Parcels	54,622	18,872	56,852	17,992
	3,249,653	1,616,386	2,689,781	2,715,388
	4,866,039		5,405,169	

There was a total increase in 1903-4 of 539,130 articles received and despatched.

The number of registered articles included in the above total was 137,518, as against 123,699. No registered articles were lost during the year.

Mails.

The total number of mails despatched during the year was 4,727, and the number received 6,379, showing an increase of 774 in the former and 35 in the latter as compared with the figures for 1902-3.

Money Orders.

The total number of money orders issued and received during the year was 11,596, value £36,901, as against 10,838, value £33,313, in 1902-3, the increase in number being 758 and in value £3,588.

Postal Orders.

The total number of postal orders issued and received was 115,380, value £69,682, as against 112,164, value £68,445, in 1902-3, the increase in number being 3,216 and in value £1,227.

Details of the money order and postal order transactions are given in the following table:—

—	1902–3.				1903–4.			
	Number.	Amount.	Total.		Number.	Amount.	Total.	
			Number.	Amount.			Number.	Amount.
Money Orders :—		£		£		£		£
Issued—Foreign	4,630	13,854			5,836	17,864		
Local	181	652			201	436		
			4,811	14,506			6,037	18,300
Paid—Foreign	5,843	18,130			5,439	18,172		
Local	184	677			120	429		
			6,027	18,807			5,559	18,601
			10,838	33,313			11,596	36,901
Postal Orders :—								
Issued—Foreign	82,139	49,513			85,584	49,776		
Local	391	138			454	176		
			82,530	49,651			86,038	49,952
Paid—Foreign	29,234	18,661			28,870	19,543		
Local	400	143			472	187		
			29,634	18,804			29,342	19,730
			112,164	68,455			115,380	69,682

Parcel Post.

The number of parcels received and despatched in 1903-4 was 74,844, as against 73,494 in 1902-3. There was therefore an aggregate increase of 1,350 in the number of parcels received and despatched, tne increase in the exchange of parcels with the United Kingdom being 1,222.

(B.) Telegraphs.

136. The local telegraph system belongs to the Military Authorities, and is not open to the public.

(C.) Telephones.

137. The Civil Government has no telephone system of its own, but all Government Departments are connected with the Melita Telephone Exchange, which is a private enterprise. There is a military telephone between Malta and Gozo, which is utilised by the Civil Government.

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138. The mail service between Malta and the United Kingdom, viâ Sicily and the Continent, was maintained with a fair degree of punctuality, but every year a good number of breakdowns occur during the winter months on the Italian and Sicilian Railways, which usually delay the mails for 24 hours or more. Occasionally also the mail steamer which runs between Valletta and Syracuse is detained by stress of weather.

IX.—MILITARY FORCES AND EXPENDITURE.

139. The total expenditure for the year 1903-4 was £699,057, as against £733,977 in 1902-3, showing a decrease of £34,920. The Colonial contribution was, as usual, £5,000.

(A.) Regular Forces.

140. The strength of the Regular Forces at Malta on the 31st March, 1904, was 400 officers, 54 warrant officers, and 9,682 non-commissioned officers and men.

Expenditure.

The expenditure on the Regular Forces amounted to £684,021 in 1903-4. Compared with 1902-3, there was a decrease of £35,362.

Royal Malta Artillery.

This corps is composed of 30 officers and 708 warrant officers, non-commissioned officers and men, who receive the same pay as Regular Infantry Regiments, and the cost of its maintenance is included in the above sum of £684,021.

(B.) Militia.

141. The establishment of the King's Own Malta Regiment of Militia is 1,120 of all ranks, exclusive of 62 non-commissioned officers and men attached to the Submarine Mining Branch of the Royal Engineers.

Expenditure.

The cost of the Militia, which is entirely defrayed out of Imperial Funds, was £15,036 8*s.* 7¾*d.*, as against £14,594 11*s.* 10¾*d.* in 1902-3, and was distributed as follows:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
1st K.O.M. Militia	4,553	7	3¼
„ Permanent Staff	2,459	18	4¼
2nd K.O.M. Militia	4,091	0	0½
„ Permanent Staff	2,409	7	9
Malta Div. R.E.S. Miners ...	1,290	10	5¼
„ Permanent Staff	232	4	9½
	£15,036	8	7¾

X.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

Visit of His Majesty The King.

142. The principal event of the year was the visit of His Majesty, King Edward VII., who arrived on the 16th April on board the Royal yacht "Victoria and Albert," and remained in Malta till the morning of the 20th. This was the first occasion on which Malta had been honoured by a visit from the reigning Sovereign, and the King received a loyal and enthusiastic welcome from all classes.

On the day of his arrival, His Majesty was pleased to hold a levée at the Palace, at which numerous presentations were made; and addresses of welcome were also presented to His Majesty by representatives of the principal public bodies. The King also laid the foundation stone of the breakwater, which is being constructed by the Admiralty at the entrance of the Grand Harbour.

On leaving the Island, His Majesty was graciously pleased to express his satisfaction with the arrangements which had been made for his visit, and his gratification at the cordiality of his reception, and the loyalty evinced by all classes of the population.

Issue of New Letters Patent.

143. Another event of importance to the Colony was the issue of new Letters Patent providing for the administration of the Government.

Owing to the attitude taken up by the Elected Members of the Council of Government, who, as a protest against the policy of the Government in connection with the language question, refused to vote the necessary funds for the administration of the Education Departments, His Majesty's Government found it necessary to advise His Majesty to alter the Constitution which was granted in 1887; and new Letters Patent were accordingly issued on the 3rd June, 1903. Under these Letters Patent the number of Official Members of the Council of Government was increased from six to ten, and the number of Elected Members was reduced from ten to eight, the Government thus obtaining a majority of two instead of being in the minority.

144. A general election was held on the 9th September, 1903, at which eight of the former Elected Members were elected without opposition. These members tendered their resignations immediately after the election, without taking their seats. The Council met, however, on the 11th November, and continued to sit regularly thereafter for the transaction of business, only the Official Members being present.

145. As Clause 32 of the Letters Patent made it incumbent on the Governor to issue a fresh writ whenever the seat of an Elected Member was vacant, five more general elections due to repeated resignations of the Elected Members were subsequently held with similar results. In consequence of this, Clause 32 was amended by further Letters Patent of the 15th April, 1904, in the sense that if any Elected Member should, without the permission of the Council, within a year from the date of his election, resign his seat, either before or after taking the oath, it should not be necessary for the Governor to issue a fresh writ until after the expiration of twelve months from the date of the resignation or of the completion of two months' absence.

146. After the issue of these Letters Patent a further election was held, at which no candidates presented themselves, and no further elections have been held.

CHANGES IN ESTABLISHMENT.

147. Mr. S. Camilleri, Postmaster-General, retired in July, 1903, and the following changes were made in consequence:—

Mr. T. Vella, Collector of Customs, to be Postmaster-General; Captain C. La Primaudaye, R.E., Superintendent of Police, to be Collector of Customs; and Mr. T. Curmi, Senior Assistant Superintendent of Police, to be Superintendent of Police.

In consequence of the resignation of Dr. A. Caruana Gatto, Assistant Crown Advocate, Prof. V. Frendo Azopardi, Magistrate of Judicial Police for Malta, was appointed Assistant Crown Advocate, and Magistrate Dr. L. Caruana was transferred from Gozo to Malta; the vacancy in Gozo being filled up by the appointment of Dr. Luigi Camilleri.

RAILWAY.

148. The result of the year's working, as compared with that for 1902-3, is shown below:—

——	1902–3.	1903–4.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Gross receipts	9,020	9,272	252	—
Working expenses	6,105	6,043	—	62
Nett earnings	2,914	3,229	315	—

After deducting the working expenses, the amount spent on works and renewals, interest on capital, and the amount passed to the Reserve Fund, the nett amount contributed by the railway to the general revenue in 1903-4 was £316 8*s.* 1*d.*

Reserve Fund.

149. In order to place the finances of the railway on a satisfactory footing, it has been decided by the Government that a sum equal to 2 per cent. of the whole capital outlay shall be transferred to the Reserve Fund each year, until it reaches an amount which is sufficient, in the opinion of the Government, to provide for any emergency that is likely to occur. The rate of interest to be paid on the capital account has also been raised from 2¾ to 3 per cent., and a Sinking Fund has been established to provide for the gradual repayment of the capital outlay.

Expenditure on Permanent Way, &c.

150. The total expenditure on the permanent way and other works during the year was £1,483. Progress has been made with the re-laying of the permanent way with heavier rails, and in laying down better ballast.

Rolling Stock.

151. Repairs to locomotives and carriages are carried out in the workshop at Hamrun, and the rolling stock generally has been maintained in good order.

Passengers.

152. The number of passengers who used the railway in 1903-4 was 959,130, as against 924,350 in the previous year.

Technical School.

153. The Technical School attached to the Railway Department is still being conducted with advantage to the Government and to the public. The average number of pupils at the workshop during the year was 20, of whom seven obtained employment in His Majesty's Dockyard, and three others with private local firms.

Public Works.

Works carried out in 1903–4.

154. The following are some of the works (exclusive of Water and Drainage works) undertaken during the year:—

Construction of a new School at Valletta;

Building an Abattoir at Gozo;

Construction of Fish Markets at Vittoriosa and Senglea;

Building Industrial School and Chapel;

Construction of a Garden at Senglea;

Completing the Electric Light Workshop;

Construction and improvement of Latrines in various places;

Extension and improvement of Schools at Curmi;

Construction of Landing Place and Slipway, St. Paul's Bay;

Construction of Boatslip at Ghar Lapsi;

Demolition of Gate on the Cospicua Fortifications;

Erection of a Fountain at Victoria, Gozo;

Improving site of the Agricultural Show at Boschetto.

Roads, Streets, and Bridges.

(*A.*) *Annually Recurrent Expenditure.*

155. The expenditure on the maintenance of roads and streets was £26,073 16*s.* 11*d.*, as under:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Maintenance of roads	11,227	18	6
Maintenance and cleansing of streets	14,637	19	0
Maintenance of moles	207	19	5
	£26,073	16	11

156. 779,580 square yards of roads, 289,600 square yards of streets, and 830 lineal yards of moles were repaired during the year.

(*B.*) *Special Service.*

157. The principal new works carried out were:—

Construction of a Road between St. Julian's Bay and Spinola Bay;

Building of a Mole at St. Paul's Bay;

Widening and remodelling portion of Strada Reale at Casal Balzan;

Widening and remodelling a portion of Via Notabile;

Remodelling Strada S. Giuseppe, Cospicua.

158. 159 sites of the collective area of 11,697 square yards belonging to private parties were purchased by the Government for widening or aligning roads and streets.

159. 1,080 trees were planted at the sides of roads, streets, and on public grounds, and 65 damaged trees were replaced by new ones.

Water Works.

160. The expenditure for the upkeep of the Water Works was £11,496 7*s.* 1*d.*, and the revenue derived from the water supplied and rent of meters £17,675 14*s.* 8½*d.* A sum of £6,179 7*s.* 7½*d.* was, therefore, contributed to the general revenue in 1903-4.

161. The only work of importance carried out during the year was the continuation of the tunnel, about three miles long, which is being driven at a depth of 250 feet below the surface of the ground, for connecting the Wied-il-Kbir Pumping Station with the pumping station at Wied Isseuda, with the object of concentrating the pumping power and consequently reducing recurrent expenditure. 1,500 feet run of galleries have been driven during the year.

162. Several extensions of mains were carried out, and 1,064 new services, out of 1,712 applied for, were laid during the year.

163. The consumption of water in Malta (exclusive of Gozo) was about 1,800,000 gallons a day, or, taking the population of Malta at 176,022, an average rate of 10·2 gallons per head per diem.

Survey of the Island.

164. 1,548 copies of Survey Sheet No. 3 were published, and 2,064 copies of Sheet No. 4 were checked during the year.

Social Condition of the People.

165. The material condition of the people generally is good, especially that of the working classes, whose wages continue to be high, owing to the important works which are being carried out by the Imperial and Local Governments. The supply of labour, in fact, is so scarce that foreign labour has had to be hired by the contractors for the Admiralty Breakwater and the New Dry Docks.

I have, &c.,

E. W. Merewether,

Lieutenant-Governor,

and Chief Secretary to Government.

APPENDIX.

TABLE I.

RETURN showing the ESTIMATED and ACTUAL REVENUE for the year 1903–4.

Heads of Revenue.	Estimated.	Actual.	Excess.	Deficiency.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1. Customs	254,297 0 0	274,251 17 6	19,954 17 6	—
2. Harbour and Quarantine Dues	9,937 0 0	7,833 8 7	—	2,103 11 5
3. Licences, Court Fines, &c.	5,694 0 0	7,838 17 10	2,145 17 10	—
4. Stamp Duties	4,750 0 0	4,466 15 2	—	283 4 10
5. Fees of Court	4,988 0 0	5,007 12 10	19 12 10	—
6. Fees of Office, Specific Services and Reimbursements	20,625 0 0	25,825 4 7¼	5,200 4 7¼	—
7. Post Office	17,675 0 0	19,624 2 3	1,949 2 3	—
8. Railway	8,635 0 0	9,272 13 4	657 13 4	—
9. Water Service	15,044 0 0	17,675 14 8½	2,631 14 8½	—
10. Electric Lighting	16,930 0 0	17,120 19 4	190 19 4	—
11. Rents—Rural	12,801 0 0	13,035 3 9¾	234 3 9¾	—
12. Rents—Urban	27,568 0 0	28,165 7 2¾	597 7 2¾	—
13. Rents, Account Pious Foundations...	4,029 0 0	4,100 3 6	71 3 6	—
14. Interest...	29,172 0 0	30,372 14 7	1,200 14 7	—
Total	432,145 0 0	464,590 15 3¼	34,832 11 6¼	2,386 16 3

TABLE II.

RETURN showing the REVENUE RECEIVED in 1903–4, as COMPARED with that for 1902–3.

Heads of Revenue.	Actual in 1902–3.	Actual in 1903–4.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1. Customs...	262,099 14 11	274,251 17 6	12,152 2 7	—
2. Harbour and Quarantine Dues	9,027 2 4	7,833 8 7	—	1,193 13 9
3. Licences, Court Fines, &c.	7,200 7 4	7,838 17 10	638 10 6	—
4. Stamp Duties	4,719 9 6	4,466 15 2	—	252 14 4
5. Fees of Court	26,234 3 9¼	5,007 12 10	4,598 13 8	—
6. Fees of Office, Specific Services, and Reimbursements		25,825 4 7¼		
7. Post Office	21,360 0 1	19,624 2 3	—	1,735 17 10
8. Railway	9,020 5 7¾	9,272 13 4	252 7 8¼	—
9. Water Service	14,734 11 3½	17,675 14 8½	2,941 3 5	—
10. Electric Lighting	16,836 9 4¾	17,120 19 4	284 9 11¼	—
11. Rents—Rural	12,546 7 10¾	13,035 3 9¾	488 15 11	—
12. Rents—Urban	28,919 9 2¾	28,165 7 2¾	—	754 2 0
13. Rents, Account Pious Foundations	3,997 16 2¾	4,100 3 6	102 7 3¼	—
14. Interest	28,370 1 1	30,372 14 7	2,002 13 6	—
Total	445,065 18 8½	464,590 15 3¼	23,461 4 5¾	3,936 7 11

TABLE III.

STATEMENT showing the ESTIMATED and ACTUAL EXPENDITURE for the year 1903-4.

Heads of Expenditure.	Estimated Expenditure.			Actual Expenditure.	Excess.	Saving.
	General Estimate.	Supplementary Estimates.	Total.			
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1. Charges on Account of Interest and Burthens.	19,911 13 0	149 16 6	20,061 9 6	20,838 19 4	777 9 10	—
2. Pensions	17,142 18 4	—	17,142 18 4	17,649 1 10	506 3 6	—
3. The Governor	3,969 1 2	—	3,969 1 2	3,731 10 6	—	237 10 8
4. Councils	1,405 0 0	—	1,405 0 0	1,441 19 10	36 19 10	—
5. Lieutenant-Governor's Department ...	4,386 10 11	—	4,386 10 11	4,751 15 5	365 4 6	—
6. Receiver-General's Department ...	3,314 1 5	56 0 0	3,370 1 5	3,114 18 5	—	255 3 0
7. Customs and Port Department ...	11,411 4 3	556 18 6	11,968 2 9	11,572 18 0	—	395 4 9
8. Audit Office	2,089 15 0	—	2,089 15 0	2,110 7 2	20 12 2	—
9. Printing Office	1,319 16 4	—	1,319 16 4	1,335 13 5	15 17 1	—
10. Railway Department	8,589 15 4	1,036 16 9½	9,626 12 1½	8,956 5 3	—	670 6 10½
11. Technical School	952 10 0	585 16 2	1,538 6 2	1,151 12 1	—	386 14 1
12. Legal Departments	21,859 16 9	379 0 6	22,238 17 3	21,238 5 6	—	1,000 11 9
13. Police	49,001 3 1	—	49,001 3 1	45,488 11 1	—	3,512 12 0
14. Public Health Department	11,626 5 4	3,838 4 1	15,464 9 5	13,276 5 5½	—	2,188 3 11½
15. Prisons	4,546 12 0	—	4,546 12 0	4,250 16 0	—	295 16 0

TABLE III—*continued.*

Heads of Expenditure.	Estimated Expenditure.			Actual Expenditure.	Excess.	Saving.
	General Estimate.	Supplementary Estimates.	Total.			
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
16. Charitable Institutions, including Monte di Pietà.	56,820 6 10	2,198 1 0	59,018 7 10	57,506 12 4	—	1,511 15 6
17. Education	1,294 15 7	9,276 7 8	10,571 3 3	9,825 10 11	—	745 12 4
18. Elementary Schools Department ...	2,131 0 1	21,948 19 11	24,080 0 0	22,904 19 4	—	1,175 0 8
19. Public Libraries	765 18 4	47 12 6	813 10 10	716 4 1	—	97 6 9
20. Post Office	14,783 5 0	1,464 17 6	16,248 2 6	16,277 9 0	29 6 6	—
21. Ecclesiastical Expenditure	982 0 0	10 8 4	992 8 4	817 13 3	—	174 15 1
22. Military Expenditure	5,000 0 0	--	5,000 0 0	5,000 0 0	—	—
23. Miscellaneous Services	13,706 9 0	14,467 8 10	28,173 17 10	28,435 5 2	261 7 4	—
24. Public Works Department	7,691 19 11	—	7,691 19 11	7,084 4 10	—	607 15 1
25. Water Works and Electric Lighting (Sub-Dept. of the Public Works).	29,254 3 4	45 0 0	29,299 3 4	27,068 13 3½	—	2,230 10 0½
26. Public Works Recurrent	53,008 17 0	858 15 1½	53,867 12 1½	57,299 0 3¼	3,431 8 1¾	—
27. { Public Works Extraordinary	3,066 0 0	6,472 18 7	9,538 18 7	6,618 14 3½	—	2,920 4 3½
{ Water Works Extraordinary	683 0 0	7,362 4 4	8,045 4 4	5,186 12 7½	—	2,858 11 8½
Total	350,713 18 0	70,755 6 4	421,469 4 4	405,649 18 8¼	5,444 8 10¾	21,263 14 6½
Expenditure under "Malta Revenue and General Purposes Order in Council, 1901."	31,364 0 0	—	31,364 0 0	5,237 0 2	—	26,126 19 10
Grand Total	382,077 18 0	70,755 6 4	452,833 4 4	410,886 18 10¼	5,444 8 10¾	47,390 14 4½

TABLE IV.

STATEMENT showing the ACTUAL EXPENDITURE for 1903–4 as COMPARED with that for 1902–3.

	Heads of Expenditure.	Actual in 1902–3.	Actual in 1903–4.	Increase.	Decrease.
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1.	Charges on Account of Interest and Burthens	19,596 7 4	20,838 19 4	1,242 12 0	—
2.	Pensions	17,174 16 3	17,649 1 10	474 5 7	—
3.	The Governor	4,902 7 11	3,731 10 6	271 2 5	—
4.	Councils		1,441 19 10		—
5.	Lieutenant Governor's Department	4,538 16 9½	4,751 15 5	212 18 7½	—
6.	Receiver-General's Department	3,180 9 9	3,114 18 5	—	65 11 4
7.	Customs and Port Department...	11,302 11 9	11,572 18 0	270 6 3	—
8.	Audit Office	2,053 5 10	2,110 7 2	57 1 4	—
9.	Printing Office	1,252 5 6	1,335 13 5	83 7 11	—
10.	Railway Department	7,999 5 0	8,956 5 3	957 0 3	—
11.	Technical School	1,048 15 3	1,151 12 1	102 16 10	—
12.	Legal Departments	21,254 0 10	21,238 5 6	—	15 15 4
13.	Police	43,524 11 6	45,488 11 1	1,963 19 7	—
14.	Public Health Department	11,722 9 0	13,276 5 5½	1,553 16 5½	—
15.	Prisons	4,201 7 8	4,250 16 0	49 8 4	—
16.	Charitable Institutions, including Monte di Pietà	54,133 5 8	57,506 12 4	3,373 6 8	—
17.	Education	9,395 12 8½	9,825 10 11	429 18 2½	—

TABLE IV—*continued.*

Heads of Expenditure.	Actual in 1902-3.	Actual in 1903-4.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
18. Elementary Schools Department	20,101 12 10	22,904 19 4	2,803 6 6	—
19. Public Libraries	814 10 7	716 4 1	—	98 6 6
20. Post Office	13,951 3 1	16,277 9 0	2,326 5 11	—
21. Ecclesiastical Expenditure	786 8 6	817 13 3	31 4 9	—
22. Military Expenditure	5,000 0 0	5,000 0 0	—	—
23. Miscellaneous Services	21,525 0 7	28,435 5 2	6,910 4 7	—
24. Public Works Department	5,966 19 9	7,084 4 10	1,117 5 1	—
25. Water Works and Electric Lighting (Sub-Dept. of P.W.) ...	30,653 16 0½	27,068 13 3½	—	3,585 2 9
26. Public Works Recurrent	58,038 12 5½	57,299 0 3½	—	739 12 2½
27. Public Works Extraordinary	12,905 5 7½	6,618 14 3½	—	6,286 11 4
Water Works Extraordinary	5,705 12 6	5,186 12 7½	—	518 19 10½
Total	392,729 10 8½	405,649 18 8¼	24,230 7 3½	11,309 19 3¾
Expenditure under "Malta Revenue and General Purposes Order in Council 1901"	32,985 4 10½	5,237 0 2	—	27,748 4 8½
Grand Total	425,714 15 7	410,886 18 10¼	24,230 7 3½	39,058 4 0¼

TABLE V.

STATEMENT of the ASSETS and LIABILITIES of the GOVERNMENT TREASURY on the 31st MARCH, 1904.

—	Assets.			Liabilities.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Investments of Imperial and Colonial Securities.	711,102	8	2	—		
Investments in the Monte di Pietà ...	2,128	3	1¼	—		
Anglo-Egyptian Bank, Fixed Deposit a/c	20,000	0	0	—		
Anglo-Egyptian Bank, Current a/c ...	30,556	9	5	—		
Funds deposited with the London and Westminster Bank.	20,639	9	10	—		
Capital laid out for portion of furniture in the Governor's Palaces.	1,850	0	0	—		
Loans to the Monte di Pietà	52,000	0	0	—		
Advances made by Treasury	7,345	5	1½	—		
Suspense Account Drainage Works ...	10,815	9	9	—		
Suspense Account Lime Kiln	81	19	11	—		
Cash (including balance in hands of the Crown Agents.)	2,501	1	6¾	—		
Court and other Deposits	—			73,699	19	7¼
Dollar Investment Fund	—			20,617	10	0
Savings Bank	—			595,682	16	5¾
Monte di Pietà, Deposit a/c	—			9,081	0	1¼
Pappaffy Emigration Fund	—			10,025	0	0
Administrators of Pappaffy Emigration Fund.	—			1,935	1	0
Deposit for works allocated to the Immovable Property under Ordinance V. of 1891.	—			1,897	6	3
Reserve Funds	—			35,403	19	8
Sinking Fund Account—Plant for Flushing Drainage.	—			647	8	9
Immovable Property Deposit Accounts	—			33,241	19	6¼
Drafts and Remittances	—			144	9	2
Total Assets	859,020	6	10½	782,376	10	6¾
Total Liabilities ...	782,376	10	6¾			
Surplus	76,643	16	3¾			

TABLE VI.

Statement of Investments on 31st March, 1904.

Description of Stock.	Amount of Stock.	Cost Price.	Market Value on 31st March, 1904.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
British 2½ per cent. Consols	258,720 13 10	254,970 6 0	223,146 11 11
British 2½ per cent. Annuities	5,966 7 10	6,013 17 7	5,116 3 7
India 3 per cent.	4,932 2 8	5,015 15 1	4,685 10 6
New South Wales 4 per cent.	69,188 13 10	80,003 17 0	73,340 0 3
New Zealand 4 per cent.	4,683 15 10	5,015 9 5	5,011 13 2
Queensland 4 per cent. (1914–1924)	73,654 16 11	80,604 4 7	76,232 15 4
South Australia 4 per cent. (1882–1884)	36,820 14 7	} 69,561 13 5	{ 37,925 7 0
South Australia 4 per cent. (1916–1936)	26,611 3 1	}	{ 26,611 3 1
Victoria 4 per cent. (1920)	54,216 8 3	60,035 10 0	56,927 4 8
New South Wales 3½ per cent. (1918)	19,000 0 0	20,623 11 2	18,240 0 0
New Zealand 3½ per cent.	14,000 0 0	15,274 19 3	14,000 0 0
Victoria 3½ per cent. (1929–1949)	16,000 0 0	17,026 15 4	15,360 0 0
Canada 3 per cent. (1938)	24,814 7 8	25,438 1 1	23,449 11 9
Gold Coast 3 per cent.	10,000 0 0	9,042 11 0	8,600 0 0
Ceylon 3 per cent.	40,000 0 0	38,330 18 5	36,950 0 0
Trinidad 3 per cent....	10,000 0 0	9,342 11 0	9,100 0 0
Transvaal 3 per cent.	15,000 0 0	14,782 7 10	14,512 10 0
	683,609 4 6	711,102 8 2	649,208 11 3

TABLE VII.

SAVINGS BANK TRANSACTIONS for the period from 1st JANUARY, 1903, to 31st MARCH, 1904.

DR.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Balance of Deposits on 31st December, 1902.				571,451	19	6¾
Deposits received in 1903–4 ...	181,772	5	7			
Interest credited to Depositors...	11,103	5	7			
				192,875	11	2
Interest received on Investments	18,071	0	4			
Pass books sold	18	18	6			
Unappropriated Deposits ...	112	4	9			
				18,202	3	7
				782,529	14	3¾

CR.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Withdrawals in 1903–04 ...	168,318	0	4			
Unappropriated Deposits ...	112	4	9			
				168,430	5	1
Investments				569,438	19	10
Interest paid in 1903–04 ...	823	6	9			
Interest due to Depositors on 31st March, 1904.	11,103	5	7			
Cost of Management	573	6	7			
	12,499	18	11			
Profit passed to Treasury on account of General Revenue.	5,702	4	8			
				18,202	3	7
				756,071	8	6
Balance at the Treasury ...				26,458	5	9¾
				782,529	14	3¾

TABLE VIII.

Savings Bank—Statement of Assets and Liabilities on 31st March, 1904.

		Assets.			Liabilities.		
		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Depositors		—			595,897	5	7¾
Investments		569,438	19	10	—		
	£ s. d.						
Balance at the Treasury	26,243 16 7¾						
Balance at the Gozo Branch	214 9 2						
		26,458	5	9¾	—		
		595,897	5	7¾	595,897	5	7¾

TABLE IX.

I.—Return of Persons treated in Hospitals, Poor Houses and Asylums in 1903–4.

Hospitals.

Hospitals.	Number in Hospital on 1st April, 1903.	Admissions.	Discharged.			Deaths.	Remaining on 31st March, 1904.
			Cured.	Relieved.	Not Improved.		
Central Hospital	194	2,692	1,450	545	455	251	185
Seamen's Hospital	6	61	42	7	5	6	7
S. Spirito Hospital	65	382	238	41	29	72	67
Manoel Hospital	8	115	79	—	—	36	8
Gozo Hospital	34	387	219	52	51	61	38
Contagious Diseases Hospital, Gozo ...	1	10	6	—	1	3	1
Total	308	3,647	2,034	645	541	429	306

TABLE IX.—*continued.*

Poor Houses and Asylums.

Institutions.	No. of Inmates on 31st March, 1903.	Admissions.	Discharged.	Deaths.	Remaining on 31st March, 1904.
Poor House, Malta :—					
1. Aged and Infirm ...	731	124	25	104	726
2. Incurables	190	33	10	21	192
3. Lepers	75	14	1	6	82
Lunatic Asylum	662	156	120	45	653
Orphan Asylum	89	10	15	—	84
Poor House, Gozo	146	55	12	29	160

II.—RETURN showing the COST PER HEAD of PERSONS TREATED in GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS in 1903–4.

Institutions.	Total cost.	Average daily number of persons.	Daily cost per head.
	£		*s.* *d.*
Central Hospital	10,046	179	3 1
Seamen's Hospital...	474	5	5 3
S. Spirito Hospital	1,952	66	1 7
Manoel Hospital	516	11	2 7
Lunatic Asylum	11,963	665	0 11
Orphan Asylum	1,974	89	1 3
Poor House, Malta	14,233	890	0 10
Asylum for Lepers	2,934	66	2 5
Gozo Hospital	1,048	32	1 9
Gozo Hospital for Contagious Diseases.	126	2	10 11
Poor House, Gozo...	1,925	140	0 9
	47,191	2,145	1 $2\frac{5}{12}$

COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following recent reports relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
418	Bermuda	1903
419	Weihaiwei	"
420	St. Helena	"
421	Hong Kong	"
422	Gibraltar	"
423	Sierra Leone	"
424	Gambia	"
425	Ceylon	"
426	Gold Coast	"
427	Lagos	"
428	Bahamas...	1903–1904
429	Gold Coast ; Northern Territories	1903
430	Mauritius	"
431	Seychelles	"
432	Barbados	1903–1904
433	Southern Nigeria	1903
434	Fiji	"
435	Straits Settlements	"
436	Grenada	"
437	Northern Nigeria	"
438	Jamaica	1903–1904

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
15	Canada	Legal Status of British North American Indians.
16	Miscellaneous Colonies... ...	Medical Reports.
17	Gilbert and Ellice Islands ...	Report for 1896–1900.
18	Hong Kong	Operations in New Territory during 1900.
19	Miscellaneous Colonies ...	Medical Reports.
20	Weihaiwei	General Report.
21	Dominica	Report on Caribs.
22	Seychelles	Report on Para Rubber.
23	Dominica	Roads and Land Settlement.
24	Grenada	Land Settlement in Carriacou.
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26	Northern Nigeria	Mineral and Vegetable Products.
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1904.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 462.

MALTA.

REPORT FOR 1904-5.

(For Report for 1903-4, *see* No. 439.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
October, 1905.

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No. 462.

MALTA.

(For Report for 1903–4, *see* No. 439.)

DEPUTY-GOVERNOR SIR W. F. KELLY to MR. LYTTELTON.

The Palace, Valletta,
31st August, 1905.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you the accompanying report which has been prepared by the Lieutenant Governor and Chief Secretary to Government, in anticipation of the publication of the Blue Book for the year 1904-5.

I have, &c.,

W. F. KELLY,
Deputy Governor.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1904–5.

Lieutenant Governor's Office,

29th August, 1905.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to submit the following report in anticipation of the publication of the Blue Book for the year 1904-5.

I.—FINANCIAL.

(A.) GENERAL REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

Revenue.

1. The revenue for the year 1904-5 was £467,835, and the expenditure £458,656. Including the surplus of £73,262 brought forward from 1903-4, and deducting the sum of £20,000 passed to the General Reserve Fund, the net surplus standing to the credit of the Government at the close of the financial year was £62,442.

Revenue, Estimated and Actual.

2. The estimated revenue for the year 1904-5 was £461,061, and the actual revenue £467,835, showing an excess over the estimate of £6,774 (*see* Appendix A.) and of £3,225 over the amount collected in the previous year.

3. The estimate has been exceeded under all the heads of revenue except "Customs and Port Department," "Fees of Office and Reimbursements," "Electric Lighting," and "Rents," which fell short of the estimate by £4,767, £836, £260, and £409, respectively. (*See* Appendix A.)

The principal excesses are:—

	£
Licences, Court Fines, &c.	1,058
Post Office	3,792
Water Service	2,506
Interest	1,697
Miscellaneous Receipts	1,900

Revenue for 1903–4 *and* 1904–5 *compared.*

4. The revenue for the year 1904-5 exceeded that of the previous year by £3,245 (*see* Appendix B.). There have been increases under all heads except those mentioned in paragraph 6, the principal increases being under (*a*) "Post Office,"

£2,923; (*b*) "Water Service," £1,025; (*c*) "Interest," £3,851; and (*d*) "Miscellaneous Receipts," £2,773; and the principal decreases were under "Customs and Port Department," £6,518; and "Fees of Office and Reimbursements," £2,258.

Increases.

5. The increases are chiefly due to the following causes:—

(*a*) to an increase in the sale of stamps and in parcel post transactions, and the payment in 1904-5 of transit rates that were due for the previous year;

(*b*) to an increase in the consumption of water supplied to the War Department and the contractors for the Naval Works, and in the number of water services laid;

(*c*) to further investments in Colonial securities; to the payment to the "Monte di Pietà" of profits made by that institution during the previous two years; and to an increase in the rate of interest paid by the Railway and Electric Lighting Department on moneys advanced by the Government for the purpose of increasing the rolling stock and the electric lighting plant;

(*d*) value of water works stores issued during the year, and transfer of other receipts from "Fees and Reimbursements" to this head.

Decreases.

6. The falling-off under "Customs and Port Department" (£6,518) is accounted for by a considerable decrease in the importation of flour, which has not been entirely compensated for by the increase in the importation of wheat; and the decrease under "Fees and Reimbursements" (£2,258) is principally due to the fact that the practice of allowing the naval authorities to stack coal on the wharves of the Grand Harbour (for which rent was paid) has now been discontinued.

General Reserve Fund.

7. On the 1st April, 1904, the General Reserve Fund amounted to £7,638, to which £20,000 was added during the year under review; the balance on the 31st March, 1905, was £27,636, against which there were liabilities amounting to £2,250. The net available balance at the close of the year was, therefore, £25,386.

Immovable Property Account.

8. This fund amounted on the 1st April, 1904, to £33,242, and stood at the close of the year at £50,196. This increase of £16,954 is chiefly due to the sale of Government lands to the Admiralty.

Revenue for the last five years.

9. The revenue collected during the last five years is shown in the following table:—

Year.	Revenue.	Increase.
	£	£
1900	356,758	—
1901	385,698	28,940
1902–3	445,066	59,368
1903–4	464,591	19,525
1904–5	467,835	3,244

Expenditure.

10. The total expenditure for 1904-5 amounted to £461,756, which was made up as follows:—

From General Revenue	£458,656
„ General Reserve Fund	2
„ Immovable Property Account ...	3,098
Total	£461,756

11. The expenditure out of the general revenue was made up as follows:—

(*a*) Personal Emoluments	£157,855
(*b*) Other Charges	300,801
Total	£458,656

Expenditure, Estimated and Actual.

12. The actual expenditure out of general revenue fell short of the estimate by £61,062, but exceeded that of the previous year by £47,769.

The estimated and actual expenditure, with the excesses and savings under the different heads, are shown in Appendix C.

There is no excess of any importance, while there are important savings under several heads, the principal ones being the following:—

Customs and Port Department	£1,090
Railway Department	2,831
Legal Department	1,382

Police	6,901
Public Health Department	2,664
Prison	1,034
Education	1,153
Elementary Schools Department	1,870
Special Expenditure (under Order in Council of 26th September, 1901)	11,531
Miscellaneous Services...	1,921
Public Works	25,030

The large saving on Special Expenditure and Public Works is accounted for by the fact that a considerable number of works were not completed within the year, and that others for which provision was made were not undertaken at all, and this again was due to the difficulty experienced in finding contractors to undertake any works. When tenders were called for, either none were received, or if any were received, the amount asked was so absurdly high that no tender could be accepted.

A good deal of valuable time was lost in calling for tenders more than once, and it has recently been decided by the Government that in future only one call for tenders shall be issued.

Expenditure for 1903–4 *and* 1904–5 *compared.*

13. A comparative statement of the expenditure in 1903-4 and 1904-5 is given in Appendix D., which shows a net increase of £47,769 in the latter year.

Increases.

14. The principal increases are found under the following heads, viz.:—

"Public Health Department" (£1,577), due to periodical increments of salary; to the transfer to this head of several salaries previously shown under other heads, and of the expenditure for the upkeep of the cemeteries that was formerly defrayed from a vote of the Public Works Department; to expenditure incurred in connection with the training of a Medical Officer of Health, and three Sanitary Inspectors in England: and to an increase of expenditure on the maintenance of the drainage system;

"Charitable Institutions" (£2,050), due to new appointments and increments of salaries; to the treatment in the hospitals of certain diseases requiring special diet; to an increase in the

number of persons admitted into the hospital and other institutions and to the establishment of the Industrial School at Sliema;

"Elementary Schools" (£1,048), due to increments of salaries and the appointment of an additional second class mistress; and to the purchase of furniture, and the cost of training teachers in England, which were hitherto defrayed from other votes;

"Special Expenditure" (£24,232), due to the fact that more works were carried out in 1904-5 than in 1903-4;

"Public Works Department" (£1,359), due to periodical increments and salaries and to the payment under this head of salaries formerly paid out of open votes under "Works and Buildings, Annually Recurrent Expenditure";

"Water Works and Electric Lighting" (£6,969), due principally to increases of salaries and increased expenditure for fitting up and working a new workshop in connection with the Electric Light Station, to an increase in expenditure on repairs to tanks, boilers, &c.; to the purchase of more meters and depreciation of old ones; to an increase in the amount of interest paid on capital expenditure (electric light); to expenditure on renewals and extensions; and to payments towards the Sinking Fund of the Electric Lighting Installation.

Decreases.

15. The principal decreases are under the following heads, viz.:—(*a*) "Interest and Burthens," £1,563; (*b*) "Police," £3,622; (*c*) "Miscellaneous Services," £4,579; and (*d*) "Public Works, Annually Recurrent," £4,283; which are mainly due to the causes mentioned below:—

(*a*) A portion of the interest due on capital invested in the "Massa Frumentaria" remained unclaimed; less interest was paid in 1904-5 than in 1903-4 to the Savings Bank on account of Savings Bank Investments, and the rate of interest was reduced from 2¾ per cent. to 2½ per cent.; the payment of an annual instalment towards Reserve Fund "A" was discontinued owing to the fund having reached the prescribed limit of 5 per cent. of the total value of Consols held by the Government, and no provision was made in the estimates for 1904-5 for the payment of any sum to the General Reserve Fund, transfers to which are now made by resolution of the Council of Government at the close of each year;

(*b*) the force was below strength during 1904-5, and the expenditure on uniforms, accoutrements, &c., was consequently also less; the cost of transport was reduced by the use of bicycles, and the payment of rewards for destroying rats was discontinued;

(*c*) the vote for training teachers in England was transferred to Head XVII., and the number of non-recurrent items of expenditure was less than in the previous year;

(*d*) fewer works were carried out in 1904-5 than in the previous year, and the vote for carrying out key-plans was transferred to Head XXV., "Miscellaneous Services."

Public Works Recurrent and Extraordinary.

16. The expenditure on Public Works during 1904-5 was as follows:—

(i) From General Revenue:—	
(*a*) Annually Recurrent	£53,017
(*b*) Special Services	34,568
(*c*) Special Works under Order in Council of 1901	29,226
(ii) From General Reserve Fund	2
(iii) From Immovable Property Account...	3,098
Total	£120,001

The expenditure (£29,226) incurred during the year under the "Malta Revenue and General Purposes Order in Council, 1901," was for the following works, viz.:—

Under clause 1, paragraph 1:—	
Schools	£5,617
Drainage	17,568
Roads	4,715
Criminal Ward, Lunatic Asylum ...	1,326
Total	£29,226

(B.) Changes in Taxation.

17. There were no changes in taxation during the year 1904-5.

(C.) Assets and Liabilities.

18. The assets and liabilities of the Government on the 31st March, 1905, as compared with those of the previous year, were as follows:—

Year.	Assets.	Liabilities.	Surplus.
	£	£	£
1903-4	859,020	782,377	76,643
1904-5	879,662	817,220	62,442

Details of the assets and liabilities as they stood on the 31st March, 1905, are given in Appendix E.

The nominal amount, cost price, and market value of the investments in Imperial and Colonial securities held by the Government on the 31st March, 1905, are given in Appendix F.

(D.) Public Debt.

19. There is strictly speaking no public debt in Malta. Interest at 2½ per cent. is paid, however, by the Government on the sum of £79,168 invested in the Massa Frumentaria.

The interest paid in 1904-5 was £1,799, as against £2,114 paid in 1903-4, the decrease being due to the redemption of some of the funds invested.

(E.) Currency.

Rates of Exchange.

20. As in the previous year, there was no appreciable fluctuation in the rate of exchange for cheques and bills on London, while the rate of exchange on Italy ranged between 25 and 25·25, the average rate for the year being 25·06.

Coin in Circulation.

21. The amount of British coin in circulation in the Colony on the 31st March, 1905, is reckoned as follows:—

Sovereigns	£500,000
Half-sovereigns	20,000
Silver and bronze	60,000
Total	£580,000

Note Circulation.

22. The note circulation (which is restricted to the Anglo-Maltese Bank and the Banco di Malta) is believed to be about £27,000; but as the banks are not subject to any statutory control, and do not publish their accounts, the exact figure cannot be ascertained.

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

(A.) Imports and Exports.

Imports.

23. The total value of goods imported in 1904-5 and the previous year was as follows:—

Year.	Amount.
	£
1903–4	7,158,079
1904–5	9,735,859

showing an increase of £2,577,780.

As in 1903-4, the principal increase was in wheat, which shows an advance of £2,826,436.

The respective values of goods imported for local consumption and of goods re-exported in the same bottoms were as follows:—

——	1903–4.	1904–5.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Imported for local consumption.	1,318,430	1,335,831	17,401	—
Re-exported in same bottoms	5,839,649	8,400,028	2,560,379	—
Total	7,158,079	9,735,859	2,577,780	—

24. The following table shows the value of the imports in each of the five years preceding 1904-5, and the average value for that period compared with that of the imports in 1904-5:—

Year.	United Kingdom.	British Possessions.	H.M. Ships.	Foreign Countries.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£
1899	297,830	408,685	2,255	5,960,191	6,668,961
1900	305,010	89,208	987	7,039,084	7,434,289
1901–2	426,404	139,237	2,083	9,511,507	10,079,231
1902–3	268,040	297,853	536	5,996,369	6,562,798
1903–4	292,483	355,293	457	6,509,846	7,158,079
Average of five years	317,954	258,053	1,264	7,003,399	7,580,672
1904–5	251,024	2,478,761	957	7,005,117	9,735,859
Above average ...	—	2,220,708	—	1,718	2,155,187
Below average ...	66,930	—	307	—	—

25. The remarkable increase in the value of the imports from British Possessions is due to the fact that, owing to a reduction in the price of coal, more steamers homeward bound from the East coaled at Malta than in the previous year.

26. The increase in the value of goods imported from British Possessions for local consumption was only £17,401, the remainder being re-exported in the same bottoms.

Imports for Local Consumption.

27. The principal imports from the United Kingdom are:—

Beer, £93,981; wheat, £5,434; manufactured grain, £44,140; cotton seed oil, £864; potatoes, £20,118; spirits, £18,108; superior wine, £4,505; sugar, £18,919; tobacco, £19,949.

From British Possessions:—

Frozen beef and mutton, £34,235.

From foreign countries:—

Beer, £2,581; bullocks, £207,309; sheep, £2,074; horses, £8,488; wheat, £238,933; barley, £4,555; saggina (Indian millet), £14,737; manufactured grain, £47,887; olive oil, £51,512; cotton seed oil, £24,529; potatoes, £9,035; pulse, £90,039; seeds, £37,599; spirits, £10,273; wine, £117,819; petroleum, £46,757; sugar, £112,657; and tobacco £30,290.

28. The following table shows the dutiable articles imported for local consumption in 1904-5, together with the amount of duty collected on each article, compared with the amount paid during the preceding twelve months:—

Articles.	1903-4.	1904-5.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Wheat	52,546	61,439	8,893	—
Indian Corn	241	121	—	120
Barley	1,054	751	—	303
Saggina	1,944	2,028	84	—
Inferior Grain	35	38	3	—
Manufactured Grain ...	41,363	24,973	—	16,390
Refuse Grain	7	207	200	—
Refuse Manufactured Grain	20	67	47	—
Petroleum	5,087	5,798	711	—
Wine	48,963	50,167	1,204	—
Spirits	36,373	36,231	—	142
Beer	32,364	29,869	—	2,495
Vinegar	89	58	—	31
Carried forward ...				

Dutiable Articles Imported—cont.

Articles.	1903-4.	1904-5.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Brought forward...				
Sugar	6,607	5,997	—	610
Bullocks	15,606	15,800	194	—
Sheep	334	229	—	105
Imported Meat	5,113	5,327	214	—
Horses	690	556	—	134
Mules	56	107	51	—
Tobacco	10,885	13,288	2,403	—
Oil	3,205	2,867	—	338
Potatoes	3,512	3,306	—	206
Pulse...	5,590	5,718	128	—
Seeds...	2,566	2,793	227	—
Total	274,250	267,735	14,359	20,874

Causes of Increases and Decreases—Wheat and Flour.

29. The duty on wheat shows an increase of £8,893, and that on manufactured grain a decrease of £16,390. The increase in the quantity of wheat imported is 17,786 salms or quarters, and the decrease in manufactured grain cantars 54,635, which corresponds to about 26,017 quarters of wheat. The decrease in manufactured grain is not covered by the increase in wheat; and as there are no reasons for supposing that the consumption of flour was below that of the preceding year, it is believed that a large stock of wheat on which duty was paid in 1903-4 was not consumed till the following year. This view seems to be supported by the fact that there was a large increase (30,119 quarters) in the importation of wheat during the year 1903-4.

Other Grains, &c.

30. There was a decrease of £90 in the total duty on these articles, which is ascribed to the fact that a large quantity of refuse grain (the duty on which is only 2*s.* a quarter) was imported for animal food, whilst formerly Indian corn and barley (the duty on which is 6*s.* and 4*s.* a quarter, respectively) were imported for this purpose.

Pulse and Seeds.

31. On pulse and seeds there is a total increase of £355. These articles were cheap during the year, and larger quantities were consequently imported than in the previous year.

Other Imports.

32. Bullocks, increase £194; sheep, decrease £105; imported meat, increase £214; horses, decrease £134; mules, increase £31.

Oil.

33. There is a decrease of £338 on oil, which is due to the fact that larger quantities than usual were imported in 1903-4.

Petroleum and Tobacco.

34. There are increases under these heads of £711 and £2,403 respectively, which are ascribed to the fact that the large quantities of petroleum and tobacco which were imported free of duty previous to the coming into operation of the Order in Council of 1901 have now been disposed of.

Sugar.

35. There is a decrease of £610 under sugar, which is probably due to the high price of this article during the year.

Potatoes.

36. There is also a decrease of £206 under potatoes, which seems to be due to the fact that many of the consignments imported during the previous year proved to be of indifferent quality, and consequently smaller quantities were imported in 1904-5.

Spirits, Beer, Wine.

37. There are decreases of £142 and 2,495 under spirits and beer, respectively, while there is an increase of £1,204 under wine.

The decrease under spirits and beer is attributed principally to recent reductions in the strength of the fleet at this station, and to the comparatively short periods during which the fleet now remains in Malta. The decrease under spirits and beer is, however, compensated for to some extent by the increase under wine.

EXPORTS.

38. The total value of dutiable goods exported in 1903-4 and 1904-5 (exclusive of local produce) was as follows:—

Year.	Amount.
	£
1903–4	6,145,883
1904–5	8,444,024

showing an increase of £2,290,141.

39. The respective values of whole cargoes which were carried in the same bottoms and of portions of cargoes that were landed and re-exported were as follows:—

—	1903–4.	1904–5.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Whole cargoes carried in same bottoms.	6,022,107	8,328,685	2,306,578	—
Portions of cargoes landed and re-exported.	123,776	115,339	—	8,437
Total	6,145,833	8,444,024	2,306,578	8,437

40. The exports for the last five years are given in the following table:—

Year.	United Kingdom.	British Possessions.	H.M. Ships.	Foreign Countries.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£
1900	1,100,924	814,929	7,716	4,547,998	6,471,567
1901	1,598,887	1,385,708	17,428	5,945,004	8,947,027
1902–3	1,444,868	758,835	21,563	3,124,310	5,349,576
1903–4	2,259,810	508,164	18,990	3,358,919	6,145,883
1904–5	3,240,400	534,015	18,932	4,650,677	8,444,024

41. The principal exports to the United Kingdom in 1904-5 were:—

Wheat, £2,981,868; Indian corn, £29,937; barley, £204,396; inferior grain, £5,670; and pulse, £17,100; all of which goods proceeded in the same vessels in which they were imported.

To British possessions:—

Wheat, £309,731; Indian corn, £80,062; barley, £129,946; and inferior grain, £13,950.

To foreign countries:—

Wheat, £3,890,062; Indian corn, £208,924; barley, £329,210; inferior grain, £75,420; olive oil, £7,321; potatoes, £790; pulse, £54,874; spirits, £3,487; wine, £2,271; petroleum, £1,696; sugar, £50,457; tobacco, £9,223, and manufactured grain, £7,523.

Local Produce.

42. The exports of local produce in 1903-4 and 1904-5, as reported by shipping agents, were as follows:—

Description of Produce.	Quantity.	
	1903-4.	1904-5.
	Cantars. Cwts	Cantars. Cwts.
Potatoes	133,301 = 208,283	186,352 = 291,175
Onions	3,262 = 5,098	8,323 = 13,005
Cummin seed	3,420 = 5,344	2,708 = 4,231
Vegetables	8,959 = 13,998	12,059 = 18,842
	Dozen.	Dozen.
Oranges	57,320	38,520
	No.	No.
Goats and sheep	1,136	1,116
	Cantars.	Cantars.
Cotton goods	672	340
	Bales.	Bales.
„ (raw)	114	183
Stone	Tons in bulk. 875	Tons in bulk. 1,050
	Slabs and blocks. 56,849	Slabs, &c. 53,093

(B.) FISHERIES.

43. The local fisheries are not of much importance, and do not yield sufficient fish to meet the requirements of the population. Considerable quantities of fish are consequently imported every year from Sicily and Tunis.

44. It is estimated that about 900 cwts. of fish were imported during 1904-5, which consisted principally of tunny, dolphin (lampuca), sparus, eel, dog-fish, grey mullet, sword-fish, mackerel, and rays.

45. The quantity of large fish caught in local waters during the year is estimated as follows:—

——	Cantars.
Tunny	160
	No.
White-tunny, sword-fish and grey mullet	5,000
Dolphin (lampuca)	30,000
Bonitoes	20,000

Smaller kinds of fish were scarce.

46. In 1895, some experiments in trawling were carried out by the Government, under the superintendence of Captain W. H. Burn of St. Andrew's, Scotland, but the results were not encouraging, and it is not likely that this method of fishing will ever be adopted in Malta.

It is probable that the supply of fish from local waters might be considerably increased if the destruction of the young fry was checked by not allowing the use of nets the meshes of which are less than a certain size, and this question is now under consideration.

(C.) Agricultural Industries, &c.

Area of Land under Cultivation.

47. The number of acres of land returned as under cultivation in Malta and Gozo was 40,821, as against 38,748 in 1903-4.

These figures are only approximate as, in the absence of an accurate survey, the returns furnished by the Inspector of Agriculture are based on information supplied to him by the cultivators themselves, which is probably in many cases inaccurate.

Number of Holdings.

48. The number of holdings remained stationary at about 10,000 with an average area of about 4·08 acres per holding.

Crops.

49. The following table shows the total number of acres on which wheat and barley were grown during the years 1903-4 and 1904-5:—

	1903–4.			1904–5.		
	Wheat.	Barley.	Total.	Wheat.	Barley.	Total.
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
Malta	7,741	2,153	9,894	7,387	2,391	9,778
Gozo	1,999	1,617	3,616	2,196	1,913	4,109
Total... ...	9,740	3,770	13,510	9,583	4,304	13,887

There was, therefore, an increase of 377 acres in the total area under cereals.

50. "Mischiato" (wheat and barley mixed) was only grown to any considerable extent in Gozo, the acreage under this crop being 2,420, or about 60 per cent. of the total area under cereals in that island.

A portion (about 1,625 acres) of the barley crop was disposed of in the green stage as food for animals.

51. The total yield of cereals in Malta and Gozo is estimated at 38,756 Imperial quarters, viz.:—26,057 quarters of wheat and 12,699 quarters of barley, as against 40,002 quarters (or 27,958 quarters of wheat and 12,044 quarters of barley) in 1903-4, the decrease of 1,246 quarters being probably due to the drought which prevailed in the early part of 1904.

Beans and other Pulse.

52. The acreage of land under beans and other pulse is returned as 2,041 acres in 1904-5, as against 1,458 acres in the previous year, an increase of 583 acres. The increase is attributed to the abundant rainfall in the autumn of 1904 which induced farmers to sow more pulse than usual.

53. The acreage of land planted with leguminous crops in the year under review, as compared with the acreage in the previous year, is shown in the following table:—

Crops.	1903–4. Acres.			1904–5. Acres.		
	Malta.	Gozo.	Total.	Malta.	Gozo.	Total.
Beans and pulse ...	1,687	817	2,504	2,571	915	3,486
Clover	4,264	1,476	5,740	4,848	1,976	6,824
Vetches	392	131	523	1,148	89	1,237
Total... ...	6,343	2,424	8,767	8,567	2,980	11,547

Potatoes.

54. The area planted with potatoes was 4,511 acres in 1904-5, as against 4,591 acres in 1903-4.

55. The following table shows the spring and winter crops as compared with the figures for the previous year:—

——	1903–4.	1904–5.	Increase.	Decrease.
	Cwts.	Cwts.	Cwts.	Cwts.
Exported	238,436	209,488	—	28,948
Consumed locally	66,856	146,632	79,776	—
Kept as seed for winter crop	31,268	36,680	5,412	—
Total	336,560	392,800	85,188	28,948

The net increase is 56,240 cwts. The decrease in the quantity of potatoes exported was due to low prices in foreign markets, and the large increase in the quantity consumed locally was due to the abundance of the crop and the low prices which prevailed in the local market.

56. The importation of potatoes from other countries during the years 1903-4 and 1904-5 is shown in the following table.

—	1903–4.	1904–5.	Increase.	Decrease.
	Cwts.	Cwts.	Cwts.	Cwts.
Used as seed	80,390	83,882	3,492	—
Consumed locally	51,310	40,104	—	11,206
Re-exported...	11,914	10,802	—	1,112
Total	143,614	134,788	3,492	12,318

The net decrease was 8,826 cwts. Of the 83,882 cwts. of potatoes that were used as seed, 78,588 cwts. were imported from the United Kingdom, 858 cwts. from Austria, 4,272 cwts. from Italy, and 164 cwts. from France.

Onions.

57. Although the acreage of land on which onions were cultivated was slightly greater in 1904-5 than in the previous year, there was a falling off of 50 tons in the amount produced, the figures being 1,978 tons in 1904-5, as against 2,028 tons in 1903-4.

Cummin Seed.

58. Only 1,713 cwts. of cummin seed were produced during the year, as against 2,165 cwts. in 1903-4, a decrease of 452 cwts.

Oranges and other Fruit.

59. No improvement in the orange growing industry was noted during the year, and of other fruit-bearing trees only the vine seems to have received attention. The cultivation of the grape vine is, however, steadily gaining ground, although it is doubtful whether Maltese wines can ever hope to compete with the cheap wines of Greece and Sicily.

Cotton.

60. There was a further falling off of 310 acres in the cultivation of land under cotton, the figures for the last two years being 897 and 587 acres, respectively.

Forage.

61. 11,131 acres of land under forage were returned in 1904-5, as against 9,401 acres in 1903-4. The amount of the produce in the year under review is estimated at 500,000 cart-loads of ten bundles each.

Live Stock.

62. Except in the case of horned cattle, there was an increase in the importation of live stock as shown in the following statement:—

Live stock.	1903–4.	1904–5.	Increase.	Decrease.
Horses	3,308	3,475	167	—
Mules	2,859	3,100	241	—
Asses	3,781	3,851	70	—
Horned cattle	8,285	7,851	—	434
Sheep	17,184	18,529	1,345	—
Goats	15,754	18,419	2,665	—
Pigs	4,828	5,078	250	—

Botanic Gardens.

63. Plants and seeds to the value of £173 were imported for the gardens from France, Germany, and Italy, and considerable progress was made with the erection of a new greenhouse the total cost of which is estimated at £772.

Government Experimental Farm.

64. Various experiments were made during the year with satisfactory results in the culture of cotton, potatoes, wheat, and vegetables.

65. Provision has been made in the estimates for 1904-5 for an experimental farm at Gozo which will be under the control of a local committee. The farm will be conducted on the same lines as the one in Malta.

(D.) Land Grants and General Value of Land.

66. 14,192·64 square canes* of Crown lands were sold during the year at an average price of £1 1*s.* 9*d.* per square cane, and 829·44 square canes of property belonging to Pious Foundations administered by the Government were disposed of at an average price of 9*d.* per square cane.

It may be mentioned that the average price of the lands sold was somewhat high owing to the fact that out of the total amount realized (£15,988), £14,987 was obtained for sites and buildings sold to the Admiralty for the storage of coal.

* 1 square cane = 47·26 square feet.

Long Leases.

67. The number of long leases issued by the Government, the area of land, and the average rent were as follows:—

—	Number of Leases.	Area in square Canes.	Average Rent per square Cane.	Area in Acres.	Average Rent per Acre.
Urban property:—					
Malta	1	1,668	3*d.*	—	—
Gozo	—	—	—	—	—
Rural property:—					
Malta	2	—	—	17·4	17*s.* 3*d.*
Gozo	4	—	—	0·64	146*s.* 1*d.*

Short Leases.

68. The following table shows the number of short leases granted during the year, the area of the tenements, and the average rent:—

—	Number of Leases issued.	Area in square Canes.	Average Rent per square Cane.	Area in Acres.	Average Rent per Acre.
Urban tenements:—			*s. d.*		*s. d.*
Crown property:—					
Valletta	146	3,409	21 10	—	—
Other towns... ...	16	433·1	3 6	—	—
Property belonging to pious foundations.	15	645·1	13 2	—	—
Rural tenements:—					
Crown property:—					
Malta	50	—	—	345·8	32 8
Gozo	23	—	—	109·6	35 1
Property belonging to pious foundations:—					
Malta	24	—	—	135·23	34 2
Gozo	2	—	—	12·85	1 9

(E.) Shipping.

69. The following table shows the number and the tonnage of the steamers which entered and cleared during 1903-4 and 1904-5:—

Vessels entered and cleared.

Year.	Steamers.				Sailing vessels.				Total.	
	Entered.		Cleared.		Entered.		Cleared.			
	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.
1903-4 ..	2,414	3,526,884	2,414	3,525,955	1,211	67,390	1,193	65,039	7,232	7,185,268
1904-5 ..	2,555	3,906,524	2,551	3,899,048	1,258	79,978	1,278	81,468	7,642	7,967,018
Increase in 1904-5	141	379,640	137	373,093	47	12,588	85	16,429	410	781,750

There is an increase of 410 in ships and 781,750 in tonnage. There is also an increase in steamers of 278 in number and 752,733 in tonnage, and in sailing vessels of 132 in number and 29,017 in tonnage.

The increase in the number of steamers is due to the fact that the price of coal at Malta during the year under review compared favourably with the price at neighbouring ports.

Nationality of Steamship Tonnage.

70. The number of British ships which called at Malta in 1904-5 was 1,469, as against 1,335 in the previous year, and their tonnage was 2,818,377, as against 2,464,464, giving an increase of 134 ships and 353,913 tons.

71. The number of foreign steamships was 1,086 (with a tonnage of 1,088,147), as against 1,079 (with a tonnage of 1,062,420) in 1903-4, an increase of seven ships and 25,727 tons, distributed as follows:—

Nationality.	Ships.	Tonnage.
American ...	1	403
Austrian	480	312,527
Belgian	13	15,517
Danish	10	13,588
French	45	57,656
German	238	350,639
Greek	25	32,639
Dutch	39	36,229
Italian	169	195,065
Norwegian ...	34	56,196
Russian	11	12,168
Spanish	8	12,209
Swedish	7	9,166
Turkish	4	1,241
Roumanian ...	2	2,904
Total ...	1,086	1,088,147

72. The following table gives the tonnage of British and foreign shipping which entered and cleared in 1904-5 with cargoes, as distinguished from vessels in ballast, compared with the figures for 1903-4:—

—	1903–4.			1904–5.		
	Britis	Foreign.	Total.	British.	Foreign	Total.
Entered ...	2,439,674	1,091,840	3,531,514	2,749,888	1,118,601	3,868,489
Cleared ...	2,206,565	1,011,210	3,217,775	2,522,974	1,026,282	3,549,256
Total...	4,646,239	2,103,050	6,749,289	5,272,862	2,144,883	7,417,745

There was a total increase of 668,456 tons in 1904-5, viz.: an increase of 626,623 tons in British, and of 41,833 tons in foreign shipping.

The total revenue collected by the Port Department during the year from tonnage dues was £7,197, being an increase of £588 over the previous year.

73. The total shipping entered and cleared for the last five years is given in the subjoined table:—

Year.	Entered.		Cleared.	
	Number.	Tonnage.	Number.	Tonnage.
1900	3,814	3,538,088	3,801	3,531,542
1901–2	3,930	3,693,252	3,922	3,695,705
1902–3	3,697	3,530,208	3,702	3,530,106
1903–4	3,625	3,594,274	3,607	3,590,994
1904–5	3,803	3,986,502	3,829	3,980,516

III.—LEGISLATION.

74. The Council of Government passed 15 Ordinances during the year under review, of which only Nos. VII., XI., and XII. of 1904 and II. of 1905 are of sufficient importance to be specially noticed.

75. Ordinance VII. of 1904 consolidates the laws relating to the election of members of the Council of Government. This enactment became necessary owing to the fact that the electoral law was contained in no less than five separate Ordinances, and in the Regulations made under the Letters Patent of 1903. Advantage was taken on the passing of the new Ordinance to alter the form of the voting ticket, which was found inconvenient, and to introduce a few minor amendments which call for no special notice.

76. Ordinance XI. of 1904, repeals articles 125 and 126 of the Post Office Ordinance of 1900, in which the rates of commission on inland and foreign money-orders is fixed, and empowers the Governor to fix the rates from time to time.

77. Ordinance XII. of 1904, repeals and re-enacts, with amendments, the law relating to the use of explosives. The attention of the Government was drawn to the necessity for further legislation by two serious accidents which occurred in 1902 and 1904 in connection with the manufacture of fireworks. It was found, on enquiry, that the Governor had no power, under the existing law, either to define the meaning of the word explosives, or to control the manufacture of fireworks, and in many other respects the law was found to be defective. The new Ordinance, which is based on the Explosives Act, 1875, provides an efficient control over the importation, storage, sale, and manufacture of explosives.

78. Ordinance No. II. of 1905. This Ordinance regulates the grant of pensions, gratuities, and other allowances to public officers retiring from the service of the Colony. Previous to the passing of this Ordinance, pensions, &c., were granted in accordance with the provisions of the Imperial Superannuation Act, 1887, but as cases frequently arose in which the provisions of the Act did not apply, which caused unnecessary correspondence with the Colonial Office, it was considered advisable that a Pensions Ordinance should be passed in Malta similar to those in force in other Colonies.

IV.—EDUCATION.

(A.) Primary Education.

Elementary schools.

Day Schools.

79. The number of day schools in Malta and Gozo was 96, the same as in the previous year, as shown in the following table:—

—	Malta.	Gozo.	Total.
Boys	29	9	38
Girls	30	9	39
Infants	5	1	6
Drawing (Boys)	5	0	5
Drawing (Girls)	5	0	5
Wood-carving	2	0	2
Sunday School (Secular Instruction) ...	1	0	1
Total	77	19	96

Night Schools.

80. The number of night schools (including drawing schools) was 38, viz., 33 in Malta, and five in Gozo, as compared with 33 in 1903-4.

School Accommodation.

81. The erection of the new schools in Valletta and Zebbug was continued, the former, which will accommodate about 1,600 children, being practically completed by the end of the year.

Two more new schools, at Sliema and Zabbar, which will accommodate 1,600 and 1,000 children respectively, were commenced during the year.

The infant classes attached to the elementary schools for girls were increased from 47 in 1903-4, to 48 in 1904-5, including 18 sections for boys and 30 for girls.

The number of children to whom admission to the day schools was refused owing to want of room, was 3,152, as against 3,245 in the previous year.

Number of Admissions.

82. The number of children admitted to the day schools during the year was 7,505, and the number of those who left school was 5,443, as against 7,381 and 4,496 respectively,

in the previous year; whilst the number of pupils admitted to the night schools was 2,943, as against 2,783 in 1903-4.

Of the number of children who left school 51 (14 boys and 37 girls) were appointed monitors or monitresses in the Department of Public Instruction, and 29 passed into the Lyceum, 18 were admitted, after a qualifying examination, to the Dockyard School, and 14 to the Archiepiscopal Seminary at Malta, and one to the Bishop's Seminary at Gozo, and 24 were successful at the competitive examination for apprenticeships in His Majesty's Dockyard.

Attendance.

83. The attendance in the day schools on the 1st September, 1904, was 16,715, as against 15,889 on the same date in the previous year. There was, therefore, an increase of 826.

The percentage of the average annual attendance to the average enrolment was 85·5, as against 89·3 in 1903-4, and 84·6 in 1902-3. The falling-off in the average attendance is attributed to the prevalence of sickness among children during the year under review.

The average annual enrolment was 15,563, as against 14,207 in 1903-4, and 13,661 in 1902-3; and the average annual attendance was 13,306 as compared with 12,784 in 1903-4 and 11,551 in 1902-3.

The highest attendance was 18,112, as against 17,151 in the previous year; and the lowest attendance was 13,384, as against 12,659 in 1903-4.

The night schools were attended by 2,233 students at the beginning of the scholastic year (1st October, 1904), as against 2,111 in 1903 on the same date.

The percentage of the average annual attendance in the night schools to the average annual enrolment was 59·4, as against 56·6 in 1903-4.

The average annual enrolment in the night schools was 1,514, as against 1,130 in 1903-4; and the average annual attendance was 900, as compared with 639 in the previous year.

The highest attendance in the night schools was 2,276, as against 2,262 in 1903-4, and the lowest was 936, as against 972 in the previous year.

The total enrolment of pupils at the beginning of the scholastic year in both the day and night schools was 18,948, as against 18,000 in 1903-4; and the average annual enrolment was 17,077, as compared with 15,337; the average attendance being 14,206, as compared with 13,423, on a percentage of 83·21, as against 87·5 in 1903-4.

Selection of Language of Colloquial Instruction on Admission to Infant Schools and in Standards I., II. and III.

84. 7,016 parents were called upon to select the language of colloquial instruction for their children on their being admitted to the infant schools, or on their being promoted to Standards I. and II., of whom, 93·8 per cent. elected for English, and 6·2 per cent. for Italian, as against 86 per cent. for English, and 14 per cent. for Italian in 1903-4.

In the case of admissions or promotions to Standard III., out of 2,464 parents who selected the secondary language of instruction for their children, 95·4 per cent. elected for English, as against 92·8 per cent. in 1903-4, and 4·6 per cent. elected for Italian, as against 7·2 per cent. in 1903-4.

Choice of Language of Examination in higher Standards.

85. 1,296 parents were called upon to choose the language in which their children should be examined: 60·6 per cent. selected English only, as against 49·7 per cent. in 1903-4; 38·7 per cent. chose English and Italian, as against 49·4 per cent. in 1903-4; and 0·7 per cent. chose Italian only, as against 0·9 per cent. in the previous year.

Annual Examinations.

86. The annual examinations were held between the months of January and June, 1904. 13,170 pupils were individually examined, and 11,115, or 84·4 per cent., obtained a pass with an average percentage of 73·6 marks, as against 10,393, or 87·5 per cent. passes with an average percentage of 74·4 marks, in the previous year.

The decrease in the percentages of passes and marks is due to the fact that examinations are made a little more difficult each year, in order to raise the standard of proficiency.

Teachers.

87. The teaching staff was increased by one mistress, five monitors and 35 monitresses.

Three male and two female teachers of the elementary schools were sent to England for training, as against two male teachers only, sent in 1903.

A special preparatory training class was again formed this year and was attended by 21 students. The requisite number of teachers will be selected from this class, by competitive examination, to proceed to England for training.

The three male and three female teachers sent to England in 1902 returned to Malta in August, 1904, and were given

charge of schools in Malta and Gozo. They all passed a satisfactory examination, and were well spoken of by the authorities of the Hammersmith and Wandsworth Training Colleges.

Of the present staff of 77 head-teachers, 16 masters and 16 mistresses were trained in England.

Cost of Schools.

88. The total cost of the Elementary Schools Department was £23,953 (as against £22,905 in 1903-4), of which £20,544 was for "Personal Emoluments" and £3,409 for "Other Charges," as against £19,159 and £3,746, respectively, in 1903-4.

The average cost of each pupil, calculated on the average annual enrolment was 28*s.* 1*d.*, and calculated on the average annual attendance 33*s.* 8*d.*, as against 29*s.* 10*d.* and 34*s.* 1*d.*, respectively, in the previous year.

Inter-Colonial Correspondence.

89. The scheme proposed by the London School Board for establishing, by means of correspondence, more intimate relations between the school-children of the Colonies and those of the mother-country, has been adopted by the Department of Public Instruction, and about 700 Maltese children are at the present moment in communication with children attending public schools in Great Britain, Canada, India, and Australia.

(B.) Secondary Education.

90. Secondary and higher education is given in the following Government establishments, viz.:—

(*a*) Secondary Education—

Secondary School for Girls, Valletta;

Secondary School for Boys, Gozo;

The Lyceum, Valletta.

(*b*) Higher Education—

The University, Valetta.

(*a.*) SECONDARY EDUCATION.

Secondary School for Girls, Valletta.

91. This school was attended by 157 students, as against 173 in 1903, the percentage of attendance being 83, as against 78 in the previous year. The decrease in the number of students is due to the opening of new private schools.

92. Twenty-five students entered for the Oxford Local Examination held at this centre in 1904, viz., three for the senior, ten for the junior, and 12 for the preliminary examination. Of the seniors two passed and obtained certificates of "Associates of Arts"; of the juniors five passed, one candidate was bracketed tenth in second class honours, taking the first place in local order of merit and winning a prize of £9; one candidate passed in third class honours, taking the second place in local order of merit and winning a prize of £6, one passed in third class honours and won a prize of £3, and two candidates obtained certificates; of the candidates who entered for the preliminary examination, one gained a prize of £1, three were granted certificates and four average candidates passed.

93. Twenty-six candidates from the Secondary School for Girls entered for the examination in the Science and Art Section of the Board of Education. One candidate passed in model drawing, and two in light and shade drawing, while two candidates obtained passes in elementary mathematics. All the others failed.

Secondary School for Boys, Gozo.

94. The average attendance in this school was 41, as against 46 in 1902-3, and the percentage of attendance was 95, as against 92 in 1902-3.

Lyceum.

95. The Lyceum was attended by 483 students in the scholastic year 1903-4, as against 527 in 1902-3.

The percentage of attendance will be found in the following table:—

Scholastic Year.

1902–3.			1903–4.		
Average No. of students on register.	Average daily attendance.	Average percentage of attendance.	Average No. of students on register.	Average daily attendance.	Average percentage of attendance.
527	458·49	87	483	413	87

96. Seventy-one boys were admitted to the Lyceum out of 206 candidates, as against the same number out of 133 candidates in 1903.

97. The number of students examined in English at the annual examinations was 297 of whom 71 per cent. obtained passes; and 299 students were examined in Italian, of whom 51 per cent. passed.

98. Only one Lyceum student entered for the Oxford Local Examinations held in Malta in 1904; he obtained a certificate in the junior section; and out of 30 students who entered for the Science and Art Examination of the Board of Education, four passed in freehand drawing, two in geometrical drawing, and two in light and shade drawing. All the other candidates failed.

(*b.*) HIGHER EDUCATION.

The University, Valletta.

99. The University was attended by 153 students in 1903-4, as against 99 in 1902-3.

The following table shows the percentage of attendance.

	Scholastic Year.					
	1902–3.			1903–4.		
	Average daily number of students on register.	Average daily attendance.	Average percentage of attendance.	Average daily number of students on register.	Average daily attendance.	Average percentage of attendance.
Faculty of Theology	22	14·96	68	22	17	80
Faculty of Law	27	22·41	83	31	30	92
Faculty of Medicine	4	3·64	91	19	18	96
Faculty of Arts and Sciences ...	46	37·72	82	81	70	90

University Degrees.

100. In the Faculty of Theology, the degree of Doctor of Divinity was conferred on eight students, while one junior student received the degree of Bachelor of Literature; in the Faculty of Law, the degree of Doctor of Laws was conferred on six students; and in the Faculty of Medicine, four students received the degree of Doctor of Medicine, while a junior student obtained the degree of Bachelor of Science.

Matriculation Examination.

101. Of the 44 candidates who entered for the Matriculation Examinations held in July and September, 1904, 14 passed, as against 52 out of 96 in the previous year.

None of the candidates who passed obtained honours, and the exhibitions of £20 and £10 offered by the Government were, consequently, not awarded.

Both English and Italian were taken up by all the candidates as the language of examination; of the 14 candidates who were successful, seven passed in Italian only, and seven in both English and Italian.

Average Cost per Student.

102. The average cost per student was as follows:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Secondary School (Girls)	1	19	5
Secondary School (Boys)	8	10	1
Lyceum	8	15	4
University	26	10	1

(C.) Industrial, Technical, and Agricultural Schools.

103. A reference to the Industrial School, which is a Government Institution, will be found in paragraph 109 of this report.

104. The Technical and Manual School referred to in last year's report has practically ceased to exist.

105. There are no agricultural schools in the Colony.

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

(A.) Hospitals.

106. The number of charitable institutions, *i.e.*, hospitals, asylums, and poor-houses, was the same as in the previous year.

General Remarks.

107. The total number of persons relieved and maintained in the charitable institutions during the year was 6,361, as against 6,636 in 1903-4. In addition to these, 97,798 persons were attended by the District Medical Officers at the Government Dispensaries and at their own residences, as against 102,036 persons in the previous year, and pecuniary assistance amounting to £3,292 was given to 2,495 persons, as against £3,355 given to 2,442 persons in 1903-4.

The total cost of the charitable institutions (exclusive of works) was £58,087, as against £58,164 in the previous year.

Details of the number of persons treated in the different institutions, and the cost per head, are given in Appendix I.

Monte di Pietà.

108. The total amount advanced on pledges during the year was £32,984 on 23,422 articles, as against £33,963 on 22,990 articles in the previous year; and the number of pledges redeemed was 23,878, as against 24,848 in 1903-4.

Industrial School.

109. The number of boys admitted into the school during the year was 26, one of whom was discharged during the year, leaving 25 remaining on the 31st March.

Subsidized Institutions.

110. The private institutions which received pecuniary assistance from the Government during the year were the same as in the previous year, viz.:—

(*a*) The Crêche, Valletta.

(*b*) The Casa di San Giuseppe, Hamrun.

(*c*) The Convent of the Good Shepherd, Balzan.

The first named institution maintained a daily average of 45 children in Valletta and about the same number at the Sliema branch; in the second there was a daily average of about 45 boys, and in the third about 65 orphan girls and 34 penitent women found a home.

(B.) Savings Bank.

111. The transactions of the bank during the year are given in Appendix G.

Deposits and Withdrawals.

112. The number of depositors on the 31st March, 1905, was 8,092, and the amount standing to their credit was £585,869, of which £552,964 was invested.

The deposits made during the year amounted to £154,621, and the withdrawals to £173,477, the excess of withdrawals over deposits being £80,856.

Cost of Working.

113. The revenue derived from interest on invested funds, unappropriated deposits, and sale of pass-books was £15,430,

and the expenses of management and interest credited to depositors and to the Treasury amounted to £10,087.

Transactions of last Five Years.

114. The following table shows the transactions of the bank for the last five years:—

Year.	No. of Depositors at end of year.	Deposits.	Withdrawals.	Total amount to Credit of Depositors at end of year.
		£	£	£
1900 ...	6,960	115,157	109,492	535,571
1901 ...	7,177	120,109	117,229	546,492
1902 ...	7,561	129,345	112,898	571,452
1903–4 ... (15 months)	8,177	181,772	168,318	595,897
1904–5 ...	9,092	154,621	173,477	585,869

It will be noticed that in the year under review there was a falling-off both in the number of depositors and in the amount deposited. This was due to a run on the bank caused by a statement which appeared in one of the local newspapers to the effect that the accounts published monthly by the Government were incorrectly kept. The run lasted from the 26th of April to the 10th of May, 1904, during which period about £44,000 was withdrawn. It was met by the Government without any difficulty.

Assets and Liabilities.

115. Appendix H shows the assets and liabilities of the Savings Bank on the 31st March, 1905.

VI.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

(A.) Police.

116. The nominal strength of the police on the 31st March, 1905, was 32 officers and 418 non-commissioned officers and men, and the actual strength was 27 officers and 393 non-commissioned officers and men.

In view of the improvement which will be effected in the position of the men when the recommendations of the Police Commission are brought into operation, there has lately been a marked improvement in the recruiting, and the force is, at the present moment, up to its full strength.

117. The following departmental changes took place during the year:—

Enlistments.—Seven men were enlisted as sergeants, and 59 as constables.

Deaths, retirements, &c.—There were two deaths, 29 retirements on pension, 18 resignations and ten dismissals, while one constable was transferred to the Corradino Prison as a warder.

Promotions.—Two sub-inspectors were appointed inspectors, two first class sergeants and two sergeants were promoted sub-inspectors, and seven constables were promoted sergeants.

Discipline.

118. The conduct of the men was on the whole good. The breaches of discipline committed during the year were 70, and the punishments awarded were as follows:—

Fined	41
Deprived of leave	14
Reprimanded	2
Imprisoned	3
Dismissed	10
Total	70

Liquor traffic.

119. The following table shows the total number of licences which have been granted, or renewed, during the past five years:—

Year.	Licences for the sale of wines and spirits.			Licences for the sale of common wine.			Total.
	Malta.	Gozo.	Total.	Malta.	Gozo.	Total.	
1900–1 ...	2,002	218	2,220	467	1	468	2,688
1901–2 ...	1,927	213	2,140	404	8	412	2,552
1902–3 ...	1,784	211	1,995	357	13	370	2,365
1903–4 ...	1,722	210	1,932	362	8	370	2,302
1904–5 ...	1,722	209	1,931	395	10	405	2,336

The number of licences issued during the year under review was 82, while 43 were surrendered and three forfeited for breaches of the regulations.

The total amount paid to the Government during the year 1904-5 in respect of licences for the sale of wines and spirits was £3,275, as against £3,274 in the previous year.

Firearms.

120. The total number of persons who took out licences to carry firearms for sporting purposes was 1,866, as against 1,700 in 1903-4, and the fees levied amounted to £933, as against £851 in the previous year.

Dogs.

121. The action of the police under Ordinance No. XVIII. of 1888, during 1903-4 and 1904-5, was as follows:—

Dogs.	1903–4.			1904–5.		
	Malta.	Gozo.	Total.	Malta.	Gozo.	Total.
Licensed	1,483	204	1,687	3,739	536	4,275
Seized	2,176	33	2,209	3,271	34	3,305
Destroyed... ...	2,159	32	2,191	3,410	31	3,441
Returned to owner	17	1	18	62	3	65

Besides the number of dogs seized in Malta in 1904-5, 201 dogs were delivered to the police by their owners to be destroyed.

Lost property.

122. The total number of articles reported to have been lost, and of those that were found and delivered to the police, were as follows:—

——	Malta.	Gozo.	Total.
Articles reported to the Police as lost ...	1,505	58	1,563
Articles found and delivered to the Police	694	83	777
Articles returned to the owners	250	17	267

Articles found and delivered to the police are not returned to the owners unless they are claimed. A list of such articles is published monthly in the Government Gazette, but as many of them are of small value, the owners do not take the trouble to claim them.

Licensed vehicles.

123. The total number of vehicles licensed by the police during the years 1903-4 and 1904-5, was as follows:—

—	1903–4.	1904–5.
Malta	1,238	1,247
Gozo	76	80
Total	1,314	1,327

Aliens.

124. There was a considerable increase in the alien immigration during the year, the number of security bonds signed being 635, as against 412 in the previous year. 200 aliens were expelled from the island under orders of the court, for contraventions of the Alien Law.

(B.) Prisons.

125. The total number of persons imprisoned in 1904-5 is given in the following table:—

—	Remaining on 1st April, 1904.	Admitted during 1904–5.	Total.	Discharged, Transferred, &c.	Died.	Remaining on 31st March, 1905.
Corradino Prison, Malta—						
Criminal Prisoners...	200	4,048	4,248	4,050	—	198
Debtors	1	4	5	4	—	1
Gozo Prison—						
Criminal Prisoners...	1	476	477	474	—	3
Debtors	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total ...	202	4,528	4,730	4,528	—	202

Admissions.—The number of prisoners admitted during the year was 4,528, as against 4,876 in 1903-4, as shown below:—

Number of Prisoners Admitted.

—	1903-4.			1904-5.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Corradino—						
From Local Courts	4,038	269	4,307	3,704	252	3,956
„ Courts Martial... ...	91	—	91	90	—	90
Consular Prisoners	1	—	1	2	—	2
Debtors	6	—	6	4	—	4
Gozo—						
From Local Courts	459	12	471	467	9	476
Debtors	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	4,631	281	4,876	4,267	261	4,528

Breaches of Discipline.

126. The conduct of prisoners was on the whole satisfactory.

The prison offences were 234, as against 301 in the previous year, and the punishments inflicted were as follows:—

	Cases.
Admonition	69
Solitary confinement on ordinary diet ...	88
Solitary confinement on bread and water ...	68
Reduction in class	8
Loss of good conduct stripes...	1
Total	234

Health of Prisoners.

127. The health of the prisoners was good. Fifteen prisoners were admitted to the prison infirmary during the year, and the daily average on the sick list was 16.

Employment of Prisoners.

128. The daily average of prisoners employed on various kinds of work in the prison and on the lands outside the walls was 120, and the value of their labour is estimated at £2,434.

Revenue.

129. The receipts were as follows:—

Maintenance of consular and naval convicts ...	£502
Sale of prison manufactures	139
Sale of produce of prison lands	134
Total	£775

as against £857 in 1903-4.

Expenditure.

130. The total cost of the prisons for 1904-5 was £3,819 (as against £4,318 in 1903-4), viz.:—

Corradino Prison	£3,668
Gozo Prison	151
Total	£3,819

(C.) CRIMINAL STATISTICS.

131. The number of offences reported to the police during 1904-5 and the previous year, was as follows:—

—	1903–4.	1904–5.
Crimes	2,302	1,471
Contraventions ...	17,528	21,054
Total ...	19,830	22,525

As compared with the number reported during the previous year, there is an increase of 2,695 offences, but it is satisfactory to note that while there was an increase of 3,526 in the number of contraventions, there was a substantial decrease of 831 in the number of crimes.

132. The offences reported may be roughly classified as follows:—

Against the person	1,921
Against the good order of families... ...	103
Against property	1,151
Other offences	19,350
Total	22,525

133. The number of offences dealt with by the courts was as follows:—

——	Malta.	Gozo.	Total.
Crimes	982	102	1,084
Contraventions	15,981	1,498	17,479
Total	16,963	1,600	18,563

134. The number of offences which were not dealt with by the courts was, therefore, 3,962, or 17·5 per cent. Of the crimes dealt with by the courts, 607, or 56 per cent., were against the person, and 321, or 29·5 per cent., against property.

135. Offences reported to the police the perpetrators of which were not discovered amounted to 297, or 1·2 per cent. of the total number reported. Of the undetected crimes, four were serious cases of theft, and four were cases of wilful damage to property caused by explosives. The remainder were not serious offences.

136. The following table shows the distribution of the offences dealt with by the courts, according to the various police divisions:—

Division.	Crimes.	Contraventions.	Total.
A. Valletta, Floriana...	222	5,100	5,322
B. Hamrun, Misida	149	1,513	1,662
C. Cottonera	76	1,393	1,469
D. Rabato, Notabile, Dingli, Siggieui	75	655	730
F. Curmi, Luca, Zebbug	68	1,607	1,675
G. Zurrico, Krendi, Micabiba, Chircop, Safi	48	649	697
H. Zeitun, Zabbar, Gudia, Axiak, Tarxien, Paula	130	1,371	1,501
I. Sliem a, St. Julian's	65	862	927
K. Birchircara, Lia, Balzan, Attard, Naxaro, Gargur	42	1,276	1,318
L. Musta, St Paul's Bay, Melleha ...	41	803	844
M. Gozo	162	1,498	1,600
Marina	66	752	818
Total	1,084	17,479	18,563

137. The total number of persons apprehended by the police and summoned before the magistrates was 18,563, as against 17,523 in 1904-5. They were dealt with as follows:—

Summarily convicted	17,097
Committed for trial	144
Acquitted	92
Discharged for want of evidence or in default of prosecution	1,230
Total	18,563

138. The punishments inflicted on those who were summarily convicted were as follows:—

Imprisoned	383
Fined	14,277
Fined and imprisoned	20
Bound over	17
Admonished	2,400
Total	17,097

The number of persons admonished was 14·05 per cent., an improvement of 2·16 per cent. over the number in the previous year.

139. There were no cases of murder or manslaughter, and only one case of attempted murder during the year. Speaking generally, it may be said that there was little or no serious crime.

Superior Courts.

140. The total number of persons tried by the Criminal Court during the year was 144, as against 221 in the previous year, and the results were as stated below:—

—	1903–4.	1904–5.
Convicted	134	96
Acquitted	87	48
Total	221	144

The crimes of the persons convicted were as follows:—

Murder	1
Attempted murder	1
Offences against the person	53
Offences against property	15
Offences against the family	17
Robbery with violence...	3
Miscellaneous offences...	6
Total	96

141. The number of cases dealt with in the Civil Courts was as follows:—

—	Pending on 1st April, 1904.	Instituted in 1904-5.	Total.	Decided.	Discontinued.	Pending on 1st April, 1905.
Civil Court—First Hall ...	433	1,331	1,764	1,001	392	371
Commercial Court	134	796	930	510	245	175
Court of Appeal	78	240	318	159	65	94
Appeals from Inferior Courts...	4	63	67	25	15	27
Total	649	2,430	3,079	1,695	717	667

Of the 1,331 cases instituted in the Civil Court, First Hall, 681 were for the determination of a point of fact or law, and 650 for the recovery of sums of money amounting in the aggregate to £16,545.

In the Commercial Court 143 cases were instituted for the determination of a point of fact or law, and 653 for the recovery of sums amounting to £21,463.

The business transacted in the Civil Court, Second Hall, was distributed as follows:—

Applications disposed of...	1,559
Secret wills deposited	33
Secret wills withdrawn	19
Deposits made	£3,522

Sales and Transfers of Property.

Sales of immovable property (38) ...	£21,290
Sales of movable property (36)... ...	1,642
Total	£22,932

Translation Branch.

9,765 documents were translated in the Superior Courts in 1904-5, as against 11,788 in the previous year.

The decrease in the number of documents translated is due to the operation of Ordinance No. IV. of 1904, under which the translation of judicial acts is limited to the initial acts.

Courts of Judicial Police.

Malta Courts.

142. The following table shows the business transacted by the Civil and Criminal Branches:—

—	Valletta.	Country Districts.	Total.
Civil Branch—			
Citations	3,212	1,582	4,794
Subpœnas	634	427	1,061
Warrants	851	266	1,117
Appeals	31	38	69
Deposits	168	109	277
Other acts	2,776	571	2,209
Cases settled	1,729	850	2,579
Criminal Branch—			
Cases decided...	9,519	6,039	15,558
Criminal investigations	177	—	177
Appeals	26	4	30
Applications from aliens	616	—	616
Applications in sanitary cases ...	109	—	109
Inquests	231	—	231

Gozo Courts.

143. The number of cases brought before the Courts of Gozo was as follows:—

Superior Jurisdiction—	
1st Instance	71
2nd Instance	9
Inferior Jurisdiction—	
1st Instance	461
2nd Instance	11
Criminal Branch	1,217
Total	1,769

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

(A.) Population.

144. The population on the 1st April, 1905, was estimated at 202,134, as against 197,070 on the 1st April, 1904, giving an increase of 5,064.

Births.

145. The number of births registered during 1904-5 and the previous year, was:—

—	1903–4.	1904–5.
Males	3,806	4,241
Females	3,367	3,936
Total	7,173	8,177

The birth-rate was 40·45 per mille, as against 37·69 per mille in 1903-4.

Deaths.

146. The number of deaths reported in the two years was as follows:—

—	1903–4.	1904–5.
Males	2,470	2,588
Females	2,349	2,546
Total	4,819	5,134

The death-rate was 25·40 per mille, as against 24·45 per mille in 1903-4.

Marriages.

147. The number of marriages in the two years was as follows:—

—	1903–4.	1904–5.
Malta	1,276	1,353
Gozo	133	166
Total	1,409	1,519

(B.) Public Health.

General Remarks.

148. In spite of a slight rise in the death-rate, the general state of the public health was good.

The death-rate in the urban and suburban areas was 26·42, as against 24·83 in 1903-4, and in the rural areas 23·97, as against 24·19 in the previous year.

Infectious Diseases.

149. The following list shows the number of cases of infectious disease reported in 1904-5 and the previous year, and the number of deaths from each disease:—

	1903–4.		1904–5.	
	No. of Cases.	No. of Deaths.	No. of Cases.	No. of Deaths.
Small-pox	51	11	8	1
Scarlet-fever ...	11	—	7	—
Diphtheria... ...	124	57	97	37
Enteric fever ...	113	44	207	68
Measles	419	22	13	—
Remittent or Mediterranean fever.	752	72	1,110	104
Febrile puerperal diseases.	14	4	28	11
Continued fever ...	119	4	233	7
Erysipelas... ...	56	9	73	7
Chicken-pox ...	55	—	36	—
Influenza	67	1	760	25
Whooping-cough ...	409	17	240	3
Pneumonia ...	40	37	66	45
Broncho-pneumonia	62	46	76	51
Total	2,292	324	2,954	359

150. Every physician or surgeon who, in the exercise of his profession, notices any of the diseases mentioned in the above list, is bound by law to report it to the proper authority, and is liable to a fine for not doing so, but it is tolerably certain that this provision of the law is honoured rather in the breach than in the observance, and the figures given here probably do not correctly represent the number of cases of infectious disease which actually occurred. When the law on the subject is amended, it is proposed to adopt the English system of paying a fee for each case reported.

Fevers.

151. Enteric.—The number of cases reported was 207, with 68 deaths, as against 113, with 44 deaths, in the previous year. Of this total, 146 cases were reported during the five months September, 1904, to January, 1905, and only 61 cases during the remainder of the year. It is during the autumnal months that the heaviest rainfall occurs, and it is possible that the prevalence of enteric fever during those months may be due to surface pollution being carried into the water-tanks. In the year under review, there was an exceptionally heavy rainfall during the autumn months.

152. Mediterranean.—There was an increase of 358 in the number of cases reported as compared with the number in the previous year. Of the total number of cases reported, 663 occurred among the civil population, and 447 in the Army and Navy.

153. No less than 556 cases, or 50·09 per cent. of the total number occurred in the months of July, August, September, and October, 1904, the average number of cases in each of those months being 134, as against 69·25 in the other eight months of the year. The number of cases in each of the four months, and the mean temperature for the month, are shown below :—

Month.	Number of Cases.	Mean Temperature.
July	148	77·3
August	141	78·8
September ...	138	74·5
October	129	67·1

154. The following table shows the average number of cases of Mediterranean fever reported in each month during the last ten years, and the average mean temperature for each month :—

Month.	Average Number of Cases.	Mean Temperature.
January	31·4	54·3
February ...	25·8	55
March	27·5	56·6
April	30·3	59·8
May	41·1	64·2
June	51·3	72
July	81·8	77·6
August	82·2	77·9
September ...	60·7	75
October	61·8	69
November ...	50·1	62
December ...	50·2	56

155. It will be observed that in July, August, and September, when the mean temperature is highest, there is a corresponding rise in the number of cases, which seems to indicate that the incidence of the disease is influenced by temperature.

156. Out of 114 cases reported among the civil population in which the blood was tested, only 85 gave a positive reaction. It is, therefore, probable that a certain proportion of the cases reported are not cases of Mediterranean fever, but on the other hand there is good reason to believe that a considerable number of cases are either not reported at all, or are included under some other category.

157. In January, 1904, the Secretary of State for the Colonies proposed to the Admiralty and the War Department the appointment of a Joint Commission, representing the Navy, the Army, and the Government of Malta, for the purposes of conducting an investigation into the cases of Mediterranean fever. The proposal was agreed to by the Admiralty and War Department, and the Royal Society consented to nominate a Commission to direct investigations on the understanding that the selection of the investigators would be placed in the hands of the Society, and that all expenses would be defrayed by the Government. These conditions were accepted by the Government, and it was arranged that the salaries and allowances of the members of the Commission should be borne by their respective Departments, and that the other expenses of the Commission should be borne in equal shares by the Admiralty, the War Department, and the Government of Malta. Subsequently, however, the Royal Society agreed to defray the expenses of the scientific equipment of the Commission, up to an amount not exceeding £200.

158. A Sub-Committee of the Tropical Diseases Committee of the Royal Society was then formed, with Colonel D. Bruce, R.A.M.C., as chairman, which appointed Major W. H. Horrocks, R.A.M.C., Staff-Surgeon E. A. Shaw, R.N., and Dr. T. Zammit, Government Analyst, Malta, to be members of the Commission. Colonel Bruce met the Commission in Malta on the 13th June, and work was at once begun. Dr. R. W. Johnstone, whose services were lent by the Local Government Board, at the request of the Royal Society, joined the Commission on the 30th June, and undertook the epidemiological work in connection with the investigations.

159. The first part of the reports of the Commission was published in March, 1905, and the second part a few months later. Since the publication of these reports further important discoveries have been made, and it is hoped that the investigations of the Commission will result in the discovery of some method of satisfactorily combating a disease which has such disastrous effects upon the health of the Navy, the Army, and the civil community.

160. Intermittent.—During the months of August and September, 1904, a number of cases of fever of an unusual type were reported at a place called Wied il Kliegha, near the Imtarfa Barracks, and on examination of the patients' blood, they were found to be suffering from intermittent fever (benign tertian). The cause of the outbreak was not far to seek. There were a good many men in the Imtarfa Barracks who had contracted malaria abroad, and mosquitoes (anopheles) were found in a swampy valley near which the outbreak occurred. The valley was drained and the locality soon became free from infection.

Other Diseases.

161. Small-pox.—Only five cases occurred in the island during the year, viz., four among the civil population and one among the Military. The cases were promptly removed to the contagious diseases hospital, and all contacts were disinfected and watched, and fortunately the disease did not spread. Three cases were landed from on board ship, one of which proved fatal.

162. Diphtheria.—There was a decrease of 27 in the number of cases, as compared with that of the previous year, and the number of deaths which occurred was 38·14 per cent. of the total number of cases, as against 45·96 per cent. in 1903-4. In the village of Zabbar alone there were 22 cases and 13 deaths. This is one of the villages in the undrained area, and although its sanitary condition is probably no worse than that of other undrained villages, there is no doubt that the practice of throwing sewage into the streets to avoid the expense of emptying cess-pits, which prevails there and elsewhere, is highly favourable to the spread of a disease like diphtheria.

163. Influenza.—There was a serious outbreak of influenza in the months of January, February, and March, 1905, during which period 650 cases occurred out of a total of 760 reported during the whole year.

Infant Mortality.

164. The number of deaths which occurred among children under five years of age was 2,575, or 50·14 per cent. of the total number of deaths, as against 2,497, or 51·81 per cent. in the previous year.

This excessive mortality prevails mainly among the children of the poorer classes, who are lamentably ignorant of all matters connected with the feeding, clothing, and nursing of their children. The diseases which cause the greatest number of deaths are enteritis and bronchitis, the former generally caused by over-feeding or unsuitable food, and the latter by insufficient clothing. The remedy for this unfortunate state of things

seems to lie in instructing the mothers how to take care of their children, and where they are too poor to be able to provide proper food and clothing, to assist them, as far as possible, in doing so.

(C.) SANITATION.

165. Satisfactory progress was made during the year with the works which are being carried out under the General Drainage Scheme.

The following is a list of drainage works completed in 1904-5:—

Drainage of part of Hamrun (drained area, 416,000 square yards).

Drainage of Rabato and Notabile (drained area, 860,000 square yards).

Portion of Marina Drainage (length, 850 yards).

Drainage of Sliema, &c. (new streets, length 1,910 yards).

Drainage of Strada Spinola, St. Julian's (length 63 yards).

Intercepting Sewer of Birchicara (length, 333 yards).

Extension of St. Julian's Drainage Main (length, 569 yards).

(D.) CLIMATE.

166. The meteorological returns for the year 1904 are given in the following table:—

Month.	Temperature.					Rainfall.		Winds.	
	Solar Maximum.	Shade Maximum.	Shade Minimum.	Range Mean, Daily.	Mean Temperature.	No. of inches.	Mean percentage Humidity.	General Direction.	Average force (0–10).
January ...	124·0	63·5	44·0	8·2	54·4	3·460	85·1	W. & N.E.	3·0
February ...	129·2	70·2	48·0	10·2	57·2	·550	79·4	W. & S.	3·7
March ...	129·0	66·0	42·2	10·0	57·3	·978	81·6	S.E. & N.W.	3·0
April ...	134·4	72·5	45·1	10·2	60·9	·490	80·3	N. & E.	3·0
May	140·5	85·6	55·1	11·5	64·4	·120	69·6	N.W. & N.	1·9
June	142·2	87·8	62·9	11·7	73·3	·131	81·1	E. & S.E.	3·2
July	152·0	96·6	70·0	9·2	77·3	·219	77·2	N.W. & N.	3·1
August ...	154·2	91·8	67·8	13·1	78·9	·236	68·9	N. & N.W.	1·9
September ...	149·2	86·5	63·3	10·6	74·5	2·126	78·4	N.W. & N.	2·8
October ...	148·1	81·3	53·5	10·3	67·1	5·757	83·0	N.W. & W.	2·3
November ...	141·7	71·4	49·6	8·3	60·0	4·347	71·5	S.W. & N.E.	2·8
December ...	131·4	66·9	46·2	8·5	56·1	2·401	74·5	W. & S.	2·8

The highest temperature in the shade was 96·6 on the 26th July, and the lowest 42·2 on the 2nd of March. The mean for the year was 65·3, as against 65·01 for the previous year.

Although the mean temperature for the year shows only a slight variation from that of 1903, the summer months (June, July, August, and September) were very trying, the mean temperature for these months being 76·0, or 1·5 above the corresponding mean temperature for 1903.

The rainfall was 20·815 inches, as against 14·685 inches in the previous year. It may be noted that 5·478 inches of rain fell in the first four months, and 14·631 inches (or as much as the whole rainfall in 1903) during the last four months of the year.

The prevailing winds were W. on 63 days, N.W. on 46 days, and S. on 28 days. The average velocity per hour was 8·6 miles.

Earthquakes were felt at 6.10 a.m. on the 21st of May, and at 8.5 p.m. on the 14th of June.

VIII.—POSTAL, TELEGRAPH, AND TELEPHONE SERVICE.

(A.) Post Office.

167. Details of the postal matter dealt with in 1904-05 and in the preceding year are given below:—

Articles.	1903–4.		1904–5.	
	Received.	Despatched.	Received.	Despatched.
Letters	1,498,861	1,951,339	1,504,399	1,957,241
Post Cards	191,685	320,684	229,229	653,068
Printed Matter ...	942,383	425,373	892,892	513,357
Parcels	56,852	17,992	58,613	18,453
	2,689,781	2,715,388	2,685,133	3,142,119
	5,405,169		5,827,252	

There was, therefore, a total increase of 422,083 articles received and despatched.

The number of registered articles was 141,082, as against 137,518 in 1903-4.

Mails.

168. The total number of mails received was 6,570, and the number despatched 4,749, as against 6,379 and 4,727, in the previous year.

Money Orders and Postal Orders.

169. The total number of money orders issued and paid was 10,719 (£37,984), as against 11,596 (£36,901) in 1903-4, and the total number of postal orders issued and paid was 126,552 (£73,456), as against 115,380 (£69,682) in 1903-4.

The decrease in the number of money orders issued and paid is due to the extension of the maximum amount which may be remitted in a single order from £10 to £40.

Details of the money order and postal order transactions are given in the following table:—

—	1903-4.				1904-5.			
			Total.				Total.	
	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.
Money Orders.								
Issued—		£		£		£		£
Foreign	5,836	17,864			5,243	20,102		
Local	201	436	6,037	18,300	150	528	5,393	20,630
Paid—								
Foreign	5,439	18,172			5,143	16,825		
Local	120	429	5,559	18,601	183	529	5,326	17,854
			11,596	36,901			10,719	37,984
Postal Orders.								
Issued—								
Foreign	85,584	49,776			96,442	53,012		
Local	454	176	86,038	49,952	460	219	96,902	53,231
Paid—								
Foreign	28,870	19,543			29,206	20,012		
Local	472	187	29,342	19,730	444	213	29,650	20,225
			115,380	69,682			126,552	73,456

Parcel Post.

170. The number of parcels received and despatched in 1904-05 was 77,066, as against 74,844 in the previous year, giving an increase of 2,222 parcels.

(B.) Telegraphs.

171. The local telegraph system is under the exclusive control of the War Department.

(C.) Telephones.

172. The telephone service is conducted by the "Melita Telephone Exchange,'" a private company.

IX.—MILITARY FORCES AND EXPENDITURE.

173. The total expenditure for the year 1904-05 was £720,788, as against £669,057 in 1903-04, £5,000 being contributed by the Colony.

(A.) Regular Forces.

174. The strength of the Regular Forces at Malta on the 31st March, 1905, was 421 officers, 49 warrant officers, and 9,922 non-commissioned officers and men.

(B.) Militia.

175. The cost of the Militia and Sub-Marine Miners (1,710 of all ranks) was in 1904-05 £13,860, as against £15,036 in the previous year.

X.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

Visit of His Imperial Majesty The German Emperor.

176. The island was honoured by a visit from H.I.M. the German Emperor, who arrived on board the Imperial yacht "Hohenzollern" on the 9th April, and remained here till the 12th. During his stay His Imperial Majesty witnessed the exercises of the Mediterranean Fleet, inspected the Naval Works in progress, and paid visits to several of His Majesty's ships. His Imperial Majesty also visited the principal places of interest in the island, and was everywhere respectfully and cordially received by the civil population.

Political Situation.

177. The political situation remained the same as in the previous year.

Changes in Establishment.

178. Mr. F. C. Fuller, Assistant Secretary to Government, was appointed Chief Commissioner of Ashanti and left Malta in January, 1905, to take up the duties of his new appointment. His successor had not arrived before the close of the year.

On the retirement of Mr. N. Tagliaferro, Director of Education, it was considered advisable to amalgamate the Education and Elementary School Departments, which had been since 1898 separate Departments, under independent heads. Professor E. Magro, M.D., Inspector of Elementary Schools, was accordingly placed in charge of both Departments with the title of Director of Public Instruction, and the appointment of Inspector of Elementary Schools was re-constituted on a somewhat lower footing. By this change a considerable economy was effected without any diminution of efficiency.

On the death of Professor S. Castaldi, LL.D., who occupied the Chair of Constitutional, International and Canon Law in the University, the General Council recommended that a separate lecturer should be appointed for the last named subject. Mr. E. C. Vassallo, LL.D., was accordingly appointed Professor of Constitutional and International Law, and the Rev. J. Formosa, B.A., D.D., J.U.D., was appointed lecturer in Canon Law.

Railway.

179. The net profit of the railway (exclusive of the Technical School) for the year 1904-5 was £620, as against £316 in the previous year. (*See* Appendix J.)

In accordance with the Regulations, three-fourths of the profit was transferred to the Reserve Fund, and the remainder to the Sinking Fund.

Reserve Fund.

180. The Reserve Fund, which is intended to provide for emergencies, now amounts to £3,924.

Permanent Way and Rolling Stock.

181. The expenditure on the permanent way and maintenance of rolling stock during 1903-4 and 1904-5 was as follows:—

——	1903-4.	1904-5.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Permanent Way	1,483	625	—	859
Rolling Stock	540	540	—	—
Total	2,023	1,165	—	859

Passengers.

182. The number of passengers carried by the railway and the revenue from sale of tickets during the same years was as follows:—

Year.	Number.	Amount.
		£
1903–4	959,130	9,155
1904–5	1,045,398	9,847

showing an increase of 86,268 in the number of passengers, and of £692 in the receipts.

Technical School.

183. The average number of pupils who attended the Technical School attached to the railway was 18, as against 20 in the previous year. During the year five pupils obtained employment in H.M. Dockyard, and two others with private firms.

Public Works.

Works and Buildings.

(*A.*) *Annually Recurrent Expenditure.*

184. The amount expended in maintenance votes in 1904-5 was £23,070. It is not possible to compare this sum with the amount expended in 1903-4, as, previous to the year under review, annually recurrent expenditure was not kept separate from special services. The amount expended was, however, lower than the estimate by £1,430.

(*B.*) *Special Services.*

185. The principal works of importance, exclusive of drainage and water works, carried out during the year were the following:—

Completion of the new school at Valletta.

Construction of portions of the new schools at Sliema, Zabbar, and Zebbug.

Extension and improvement of the Secondary School for Girls, Valletta.

Improving sanitation in the University and Government schools.

Providing the University with a laboratory for experimental physiology.

Providing St. Antonio Palace with electric light.

Lighting Verdala Palace with acetylene gas.

Completing the new landing place at Marsamuscetto, and providing a cab stand, &c., for the convenience of passengers.

Continuing the construction of the new chapel at the Poor-house.

Construction of a portion of the Criminal Ward at the Lunatic Asylum, and continuation of construction of the Infirmary in the same institution.

Enlarging cattle-sheds and laying on water for flushing purposes at the Lazaretto.

Repairing portion of the mole at Pietà.

II. Roads, Streets, and Bridges.

(*A.*) *Annually Recurrent Expenditure.*

186. The expenditure on the maintenance of roads, streets and bridges was £29,947, as against £26,074 in 1903-4, and 652,827 square yards of roads, 536,281 square yards of streets, and 934 lineal yards of moles were repaired during the year, as against 779,580 square yards of roads, 289,600 square yards of streets, and 830 lineal yards of moles in 1903-4.

187. 107 sites of the collective area of 28,985 square yards belonging to private parties were purchased by the Government for widening and aligning roads and streets.

(*B*) *Special Services.*

188. In addition to the expenditure mentioned in paragraph 186, a sum of £18,226 was expended on special repairs which could not be charged to the ordinary maintenance votes.

189. The principal new works carried out were:—

Completion of the new road between St. Julian's Bay and Spinola Bay.

Opening of a new road from Marsamuscetto to Floriana.

Opening a path between Notabile and the Museum Railway Station.

Miscellaneous.

190. 1,587 trees were planted on public grounds, and the number of fruit and ornamental trees in the Government Nurseries on the 1st April, 1905, was 6,492 and 17,366, respectively.

191. A sum of £1,615 was expended in connection with the acquisition of land for public purposes, and £1,485 for carrying out key-plans.

Water Works.

192. The amount expended on the Water Works Branch, exclusive of new works, was £14,133, and the revenue derived from water supplied and rent of meters was £18,701.

The only works of importance carried out during 1904-5 were the erection of a new pumping station at Ghain Kajjet, which will considerably increase the supply of water at Rabato, and the continuation of the three miles' tunnel which is being driven to connect the Wied-el-Kbir and Wied Isseuda Pumping Stations. 657,000,000 gallons of water were consumed during the year, representing an average consumption of 9·13 gallons per head per diem.

Electric Lighting.

193. The total number of units generated was 1,111,174, and the consumption of coal amounted to 3,802 tons, as against 1,062,744 units and 3,907 tons in the previous year. The consumption of coal per unit was, therefore, 7·66 lbs., as against 8·23 lbs. in 1903-4, showing a saving of 1·57 lbs. of coal per unit, which was due to a more methodical system of weighing out the coal and to the encouragement of economy among the stokers by the granting of bonuses for the smallest consumption.

194. The working expenses (including interest on capital, reserve fund, and laying of house installations) amounted to £12,654, and the revenue derived was £17,020.

195. The capital outlay of the electric lighting installation on the 31st March, 1905, was £62,943.

Survey of the Island.

196. The work done on the Survey of the island was as follows:—

	Acres.
Survey with plane table and telemeter ...	1,663·8
	Miles.
Traversing	113·3
	Number.
Sheets checked (2,100 acres)	5
Sheets published (1,033 acres)...	2
Sheets being printed at Chatham (1,333 acres)	3

Social Condition of the People.

197. The year 1904-5 may be regarded as having been a prosperous one, especially for the working classes, who form the great majority of the population. Wages remained high, as in the previous year, the demand for labour having continued to be greater than the supply. In consequence of the scarcity of labour, a considerable number of Spanish and Italian workmen were imported during the year and employed by the contractors for the breakwater and the dockyard extensions which are still in progress.

I have, &c.,

E. M. Merewether,
Lieutenant-Governor
and Chief Secretary to Government.

His Honour,
The Deputy Governor.

APPENDIX A.

RETURN showing the ESTIMATED and ACTUAL REVENUE for the year 1904–5.

Heads of Revenue.	Estimated.	Actual.	Excess.	Deficit.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
I. Customs	272,500 0 0	267,733 7 7	—	4,766 12 5
II. Harbour and Quarantine Dues.	7,800 0 0	8,493 13 8	693 13 8	—
III. Licences, Court Fines, &c.	6,945 0 0	8,002 13 7½	1,057 13 7½	—
IV. Stamp Duties	4,400 0 0	4,706 14 0	306 14 0	—
V. Fees of Court	4,440 0 0	5,083 16 5	643 16 5	—
VI. Fees of Office and Reimbursements.	24,403 0 0	23,566 19 0	—	836 1 0
VII. Post Office	18,755 0 0	22,547 0 11	3,792 0 11	—
VIII. Railway	9,480 0 0	9,929 0 7	449 0 7	—
IX. Water Service	16,195 0 0	18,701 3 4	2,506 3 4	—
X. Electric Lighting	17,280 0 0	17,020 9 5	—	259 10 7
XI. Rents	45,463 0 0	45,053 18 5	—	409 1 7
XII. Interest	32,527 0 0	34,223 10 6½	1,696 10 6½	—
XIII. Miscellaneous Receipts ..	873 0 0	2,773 1 10	1,900 1 10	—
Total	461,061 0 0	467,835 9 4½	13,045 14 11½	6,271 5 7
Nett Excess			£6,774 9 4½	

APPENDIX B.

RETURN showing the REVENUE RECEIVED in 1904–5, as COMPARED with that for 1903–4.

Heads of Revenue.	1903–4.	1904–5.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
I. Customs and Port Department.	274,251 17 6	267,733 7 7	—	6,518 9 11
II. Harbour and Quarantine Dues.	7,833 8 7	8,493 13 8	660 5 1	—
III. Licences, Court Fines, &c	7,839 0 4	8,002 13 7½	163 13 3½	—
IV. Stamp Duties	4,466 15 2	4,706 14 0	239 18 10	—
V. Fees of Court	5,007 10 4	5,083 16 5	76 6 1	—
VI. Fees of Office and Reimbursements.	25,825 4 7½	23,566 19 0	—	2,258 5 7½
VII. Post Office	19,624 2 3	22,547 0 11	2,922 18 8	—
VIII Railway	9,272 13 4	9,929 0 7	656 7 3	—
IX. Water Service	17,675 14 8½	18,701 3 4	1,025 8 7½	—
X. Electric Lighting	17,120 19 4	17,020 9 5	—	100 9 11
XI. Rents	45,300 14 6½	45,053 18 5	—	246 16 1½
XII. Interest	30,372 14 7	34,223 10 6½	3,850 15 11½	—
XIII. Miscellaneous Receipts ..	—	2,773 1 10	2,773 1 10	—
	464,590 15 3½	467,835 9 4½	12,368 15 8	9,121 1 6½

APPENDIX C.

STATEMENT showing the ESTIMATED and ACTUAL EXPENDITURE for the year 1904–5.

Heads of Expenditure.	Estimated Expenditure.			Actual Expenditure.	Excess.	Saving.
	General Estimate.	Supplementary Estimates.	Total.			
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
I. Charges on Account of Interest and Burthens.	19,637 11 5	—	19,637 11 5	19,275 17 1	—	361 14 4
II. Pensions	17,842 10 8	—	17,842 10 8	18,197 17 2	355 6 6	—
III. The Governor	4,050 18 2	—	4,050 18 2	4,052 4 2	1 6 0	—
IV. Councils	1,317 16 8	—	1,317 16 8	1,187 2 9	—	130 13 11
V. Lieutenant-Governor's Department.	5,146 9 0	62 10 0	5,208 19 0	4,950 10 11	—	258 8 1
VI. Receiver-General and Director of Contracts Department.	3,372 1 8	128 16 8	3,500 18 4	3,293 0 3	—	207 18 1
VII. Customs and Port Department	11,423 19 11	450 0 0	11,873 19 11	10,784 7 2	—	1,089 12 9
VIII. Audit Office	2,266 16 3	—	2,266 16 3	2,411 7 10	144 11 7	—
IX. Printing Office	1,405 9 11	—	1,405 9 11	1,366 8 4½	—	39 1 6½
X. Railway Department	12,853 10 0	191 17 2	13,045 7 2	10,214 7 9½	—	2,830 19 4½
XI. Museum	836 10 0	—	836 10 0	561 2 3	—	275 7 9
XII. Legal Departments	22,310 10 11	50 0 0	22,360 10 11	20,978 1 7½	—	1,382 9 3½
XIII. Police	48,767 6 5	—	48,767 6 5	41,866 7 6	—	6,900 18 11
XIV. Public Health Department ...	17,312 8 11	204 5 5	17,516 14 4	14,853 3 8	—	2,663 10 8
XV. Prisons	4,847 1 2	—	4,847 1 2	3,813 2 1	—	1,033 19 1
XVI. Charitable Institutions, including Monte di Pietà.	60,040 2 4	422 11 0	60,462 13 4	59,557 2 2½	—	905 11 1½

APPENDIX C.—*continued.*

	Heads of Expenditure.	Estimated Expenditure.						Actual Expenditure.			Excess.			Saving.		
		General Estimate.			Supplementary Estimates.			Total.								
		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
XVII.	Education...	11,380	15	6	280	0	0	11,660	15	6	10,508	3	10	—			1,152	11	8
XVIII.	Elementary Schools' Department	25,823	9	0	—			25,823	9	0	23,953	5	2	—			1,870	3	10
XIX.	Public Libraries	787	8	11	—			787	8	11	804	3	2	16	14	3	—		
XX.	Post Office	16,385	10	0	490	0	0	16,875	10	0	16,386	12	11	—			488	17	1
XXI.	Ecclesiastical Expenditure ...	391	0	0	20	0	0	411	0	0	367	17	5	—			43	2	7
XXII.	Military Expenditure	5,000	0	0	—			5,000	0	0	5,000	0	0	—			—		
XXIII.	Agriculture	937	0	0	—			937	0	0	792	14	9	—			144	5	3
XXIV.	Special Expenditure	41,000	0	0	—			41,000	0	0	29,469	9	11	—			11,530	10	1
XXV.	Miscellaneous Services	21,782	0	0	3,996	0	0	25,778	0	0	23,856	12	5	—			1,921	7	7
XXVI.	Public Works' Department ...	9,202	9	9	36	0	0	9,238	9	9	8,443	9	10	—			794	19	11
XXVII.	Water Works and Electric Lighting Department.	28,950	17	8	5,610	15	3	34,561	12	11	34,037	7	8	—			524	5	3
XXVIII.	Public Works :																		
	I. Works and Buildings,																		
	A. Annually Recurrent...	24,500	0	0	98	0	0	24,598	0	0	23,069	10	4	—			1,528	9	8
	B. Special Services ...	6,674	0	0	28,226	18	0½	34,900	18	0½	21,147	7	4	—			13,753	10	8½
	II. Roads, Streets and Bridges,																		
	A. Annually Recurrent...	31,500	0	0	—			31,500	0	0	29,946	13	11	—			1,553	6	1
	B. Special Services ...	2,800	0	0	18,904	18	5	21,704	18	5	13,510	13	10	—			8,194	4	7
	Total	460,545	14	3	59,172	11	11½	519,718	6	2½	458,656	5	4	517	18	4	61,597	19	2½

APPENDIX D.

STATEMENT showing the ACTUAL EXPENDITURE for 1904–5 as COMPARED with that for 1903–4.

	Heads of Expenditure.	1903–4.	1904–5.	Increase.	Decrease.
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
I.	Charges on Account of Interest and Burthens ...	20,838 19 4	19,275 17 1	—	1,563 2 3
II.	Pensions	17,649 1 10	18,197 17 2	548 15 4	—
III.	The Governor	3,731 10 6	4,052 4 2	320 13 8	—
IV.	Councils	1,441 19 10	1,187 2 9	—	254 17 1
V.	Lieutenant Governor's Department	4,751 15 5	4,950 10 11	198 15 6	—
VI.	Receiver-General and Director of Contracts Department.	3,114 18 5	3,293 0 3	178 1 10	—
VII.	Customs and Port Department	11,572 18 0	10,784 7 2	—	788 10 10
VIII.	Audit Office	2,110 7 2	2,411 7 10	301 0 8	—
IX.	Printing Office	1,335 13 5	1,366 8 4½	30 14 11½	—
X.	Railway Department	10,107 17 4	10,214 7 9½	106 10 5½	—
XI.	Museum	—	561 2 3	561 2 3	—
XII.	Legal Departments	21,238 5 6	20,978 1 7½	—	260 3 10½
XIII.	Police	45,488 11 1	41,866 7 6	—	3,622 3 7
XIV.	Public Health Department	13,276 5 5½	14,853 3 8	1,576 18 2½	—
XV.	Prisons	4,250 16 0	3,813 2 1	—	437 13 11
XVI.	Charitable Institutions, including Monte di Pietà ...	57,506 12 4	59,557 2 2½	2,050 9 10½	—

APPENDIX D.—*continued.*

	Heads of Expenditure.	1903–4.	1904–5.	Increase.	Decrease.
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
XVII.	Education	9,825 10 11	10,508 3 10	682 12 11	—
XVIII.	Elementary Schools' Department	22,904 19 4	23,953 5 2	1,048 5 10	—
XIX	Public Libraries	716 4 1	804 3 2	87 19 1	—
XX.	Post Office	16,277 9 0	16,386 12 11	109 3 11	—
XXI.	Ecclesiastical Expenditure	817 13 3	367 17 5	—	449 15 10
XXII.	Military Expenditure	5,000 0 0	5,000 0 0	—	—
XXIII.	Agriculture	—	792 14 9	792 14 9	—
XXIV.	Special Expenditure	5,237 0 2	29,469 9 11	24,232 9 9	—
XXV.	Miscellaneous Services	28,435 5 2	23,856 12 5	—	4,578 12 9
XXVI.	Public Works' Department	7,084 4 10	8,443 9 10	1,359 5 0	—
XXVII.	Water Works and Electric Lighting Department ...	27,068 13 3½	34,037 7 8	6,968 14 4½	—
XXVIII.	Public Works :				
	Annually Recurrent	57,299 0 3½	53,016 4 3	—	4,282 16 0¼
	Special Services	11,805 6 11	34,658 1 2	22,852 14 3	—
	Total	410,886 18 10¾	458,656 5 4	64,007 2 7½	16,237 16 1¼

APPENDIX E.

STATEMENT of ASSETS and LIABILITIES on 31ST MARCH, 1905.

Liabilities.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	Assets.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
DEPOSITS:—			INVESTMENTS:—		
Depositors in Court	57,698 9 11½		Bearing Interest—		
Depositors in the Dollar Investment Fund	19,932 10 0		Investments in British and Colonial Securities	736,117 8 4	
2½ per cent. Annuities Fund	200 0 0		Investments in the Monte di Pietà at 2 per cent.	2,121 1 6½	
Savings Bank	585,767 15 4		Funds deposited with the Anglo-Egyptian Bank.	61,938 17 4	
Monte di Pietà	7,500 11 0		Funds deposited with the London and Westminster Bank.	7,812 7 4	
Pappaffy Emigration Fund	10,025 0 0		Furniture in Governor's Palace	1,850 0 0	
Deposits for works allocated to the Immovable Property Account under Ordinance No. V of 1891.	686 0 7		Monte di Pietà Loan Account	52,000 0 0	
Administrators of Pappaffy Emigration Fund	1,935 19 2½				861,839 14 6½
Other Deposits	20,193 5 7½				
General Reserve Fund	27,635 17 11		CASH	1,948 3 9	
Reserve Fund "A"	13,207 15 1				
Reserve Fund "B"	11,636 5 1		ASSISTANT SECRETARY, GOZO	566 13 8	
Reserve Fund "Furniture, &c." in the Governor's Palaces	194 4 4				
Reserve Fund "Railway"	3,116 10 5		CROWN AGENTS	2,488 7 6	
Reserve Fund "Electric Lighting"	2,301 4 0				5,003 4 11
Sinking Fund "Plant for flushing Drainage"	1,127 5 3				
Renewal and Extension Fund "Electric Lighting."	2,020 13 10½		ADVANCES:—		
			To Heads of Departments	207 1 3	
IMMOVABLE PROPERTY: £ s. d.			Special	1,723 16 11½	
Government 48,075 2 7					1,930 18 2½
Pious Foundations 2,121 1 6½					
	50,196 4 1½		SUSPENSE ACCOUNTS:		
		815,375 11 9½	Drainage Works under Schedule "A"	3,122 16 5	
			Drainage Works under Schedule "B"	6,128 15 0	
Drafts and Remittances		247 18 7	Mediterranean Fever Commission	31 14 10	
Liability for value of Water Works Stores, as per contra		1,596 12 1	Draining House, 117G, Strada Concezione, Misida.	7 19 0	
					9,291 5 3
		817,220 2 5½			
Surplus		62,441 12 6½	WATER WORKS STORES		1,596 12 1
		879,661 14 11½			879,661 14 11½

APPENDIX F.

STATEMENT of INVESTMENTS on 31ST MARCH, 1905.

Description of Stock.	Amount of Stock.	Cost Price.	Market Value on 31st March, 1905.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
British 2½ per cent. Consols	276,173 12 10	270,426 12 8	252,008 9 0
British 2½ per cent. Annuities	5,986 7 10	6,013 17 7	5,369 15 0
India 3 per cent. Insd.	4,932 2 8	5,015 15 1	4,858 3 0
New South Wales 4 per cent. Insd.	69,188 13 10	80,003 17 0	74,723 15 9
New Zealand 4 per cent. Insd.	4,683 15 10	5,015 9 5	5,058 9 11
Queensland 4 per cent. Insd. (1914-24) ..	73,654 16 11	80,604 4 7	79,178 19 2
South Australia 4 per cent. Insd. (1883-84) .	36,820 14 7	69,581 13 5	38,293 11 2
South Australia 4 per cent. Insd. (1916-36)..	26,611 3 1		27,476 0 4
Victoria 4 per cent. Insd. (1920)	54,216 8 3	60,035 10 0	57,469 7 11
New South Wales 3½ per cent. Insd. (1918)..	19,000 0 0	20,623 11 2	18,905 0 0
New Zealand 3½ per cent. Insd.	14,000 0 0	15,274 19 3	14,000 0 0
Victoria 3½ per cent. Insd. (1929-49)	16,000 0 0	17,026 15 4	15,880 0 0
Lagos 3½ per cent. Insd.	10,000 0 0	9,558 13 6	9,700 0 0
Canada 3 per cent. Insd. (1938)..	24,814 7 8	25,438 1 1	24,194 0 6
Gold Coast 3 per cent. Insd.	10,000 0 0	9,042 11 0	8,650 0 0
Ceylon 3 per cent. Insd.	40,000 0 0	38,330 18 5	38,000 0 0
Trinidad 3 per cent. Insd.	10,000 0 0	9,342 11 0	9,000 0 0
Transvaal 3 per cent. Insd.	15,000 0 0	14,782 7 10	15,150 0 0
	711,062 3 6	736,117 8 4	697,915 11 9

APPENDIX G.

Savings Bank Transactions for the Year 1904–5.

Dr.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	Cr.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Balance of Deposits on 31st March, 1904.				595,897	5	7¾	Withdrawals in 1904–5 ...	173,477	1	0½			
Deposits received in 1904–5 ...	154,621	0	2				Unappropriated Deposits as per contra.	114	16	8½			
Interest credited to Depositors...	8,942	19	9								173,591	17	8¾
				163,563	19	11	Investments				552,963	19	10
Interest received on Investments	15,300	17	2				Interest paid in 1904–5 ...	723	16	4			
Pass books sold	14	14	0				Interest due to Depositors on 1904–5.	8,942	19	9			
Unappropriated Deposits ...	114	16	8½				Cost of Management	420	5	9			
				15,430	7	10½		10,087	1	10			
							Profit passed to Treasury on account of General Revenue.	5,343	6	0½	15,430	7	10½
							Balance at the Treasury ...				32,905	8	0
				774,891	13	5¼					774,891	13	5¼

APPENDIX H.

SAVINGS BANK.—STATEMENT OF ASSETS and LIABILITIES on 31st MARCH, 1905.

LIABILITIES.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Depositors	585,869	7	10			
				585,869	7	10

ASSETS.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Investments				552,963	19	10
Cash at the Treasury	32,803	15	6			
„ at the Gozo Branch ...	101	12	6			
				32,905	8	0
				585,869	7	10

DR. PROFIT and LOSS ACCOUNT.—For the year ended 31st MARCH, 1905. CR.

To	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Salaries	297	1	8			
„ Expenses and Stationery ...	15	4	1			
„ Rent	108	0	0			
				420	5	9
„ Interest paid to Depositors during the year.	585	4	6			
„ Interest paid to Treasury on overdrawn account.	138	11	10			
„ Interest credited to Depositors on 31st March, 1905.	8,942	19	9			
				9,666	16	1
				10,087	1	10
Net Profit passed to General Revenue on 31st March, 1905.				5,343	6	0½
				15,430	7	10½

By	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Unappropriated interest ...				114	16	8½
„ Interest on Investments ...	13,440	1	11			
„ Refund of Income-tax ...	1,860	15	3			
				15,300	17	2
„ Sale of Pass-books... ...				14	14	0
				15,430	7	10½

APPENDIX I.

I.—Return of Persons treated in Hospitals, Poor-Houses and Asylums in 1904–5.

Hospitals.	Number in Hospital on 1st April, 1904.	Admissions.	Discharged.			Deaths.	Remaining on 31st March, 1905.
			Cured.	Relieved.	Not Improved.		
Central Hospital ...	185	2,593	1,470	482	388	263	175
Seamen's Hospital ...	7	93	60	10	7	6	17
Santo Spirito Hos.	67	354	240	32	28	51	70
Manoel Hospital ...	4	61	50	1	—	11	3
Gozo Hospital ...	38	371	214	47	51	62	35
Contagious Diseases Hospital, Gozo.	1	27	24	—	—	3	—
Total	302	3,499	2,058	572	474	396	300

Poor-Houses and Asylums.

Institutions.	No. of Inmates on 31st March, 1904.	Admissions.	Discharged.	Deaths.	Remaining on 31st March, 1905.
Poor-House, Malta : –					
1. Aged and Infirm ...	726	169	34	129	732
2. Incurables	192	23	7	17	191
3. Lepers	82	5	—	7	80
Lunatic Asylum	653	149	75	64	663
Orphan Asylum	84	11	14	—	81
Poor-House, Gozo	149	31	5	39	136
Total	1,886	388	135	256	1,883

APPENDIX I—*continued.*

II.—RETURN showing the COST per HEAD of PERSONS treated in GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS in 1904–5.

Institutions.	Total cost.	Average daily number of persons.	Daily cost per head.
	£		*s.* *d*
Central Hospital	10,428	176	3 3
Seamen's Hospital...	590	7	4 7
Santo Spirito Hospital	1,887	61	1 8
Manoel Hospital	393	3	7 0
Lunatic Asylum	11,622	664	0 11
Orphan Asylum	1,994	85	1 3
Poor House, Malta	13,954	885	0 10
Asylum for Lepers	3,399	66	2 10
Gozo Hospital	1,250	32	2 1
Gozo Hospital for Contagious Diseases.	491	2	18 11
Poor-House, Gozo...	2,270	138	0 11
	48,268	2,119	£2 4*s.* 3*d.*

APPENDIX J.

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT Showing the ACTUAL REVENUE and EXPENDITURE and the NET PROFIT of the RAILWAY (exclusive of the Technical School) for the Years 1903–1904 and 1904–1905.

—	1903–1904.			1904–1905.		
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Revenue:—						
Sale of tickets			9,154 19 11			9,847 10 2
Conveyance of mails			50 0 0			50 0 0
Sale of clinkers			10 16 2			4 11 3
Other receipts			56 17 3			26 19 2
			9,272 13 4			9,929 0 7
Expenditure:—						
Working expenses:						
Personal emoluments			3,105 5 1			3,284 12 5½
Coal		1,280 10 11			1,280 16 4	
Oil, cotton waste, &c.		132 18 4			134 1 5	
Maintenance of permanent way, bridges and buildings.		393 8 8			347 2 11½	
Maintenance of rolling stock		539 17 9			540 4 8½	
Depreciation and renewals...		143 12 7			143 8 0	
Water dues		80 5 2			66 15 6	
Telephones		42 10 0			42 10 0	
Printing and stationery		89 8 3			70 3 6	
Lighting		46 4 7			47 7 8	
Uniforms		56 0 0			51 16 10	
Contingencies...		112 18 3½			114 5 2	
Annuity for a site near C. Attard Station ...		5 15 0			3 5 4	
Cost of a typewriter...		—			22 1 3	
Petty expenses		14 14 4½			13 19 9	
			2,937 18 11			2,877 18 5
Total working expenses			6,043 4 0	6,043 4 0		6,162 10 10½	6,162 10 10½
Gross profit				3,229 9 4			3,766 9 8½

APPENDIX J—*continued.*

—	1903–1904.				1904–1905.			
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Interest	1,128 16 6				1,307 1 6			
Passed to reserve fund	301 0 8				899 0 11			
		1,429 17 2				2,206 2 5		
Renewals:—								
Relaying a portion of the line	604 7 5				300 6 1			
Constructing retaining walls at Hamrun ...	285 16 3				—			
Improving Vallette Station	88 15 3				—			
Macadamizing road from Roman Villa to Museum Station.	93 2 9				—			
Railing the embankment near the Museum Station and fixing lamps.	89 14 0				—			
Renewing permanent way and constructing water drains.	—				324 8 10			
Fitting a carriage with electric light	74 2 8				—			
		1,235 18 4				624 14 11		
Additions:—								
Construction of a shed for locomotives and carriages.	89 10 8				166 15 3			
Special services at B'cara Station	157 15 1				148 8 3			
Drawing of a new locomotive	—				0 3 0			
		247 5 9				315 6 6		
			2,913 1 3	2,913 1 3			3,146 3 10	3,146 3 10
Total expenditure			8,956 5 3				9,308 14 8½	
Net profit				316 8 1				620 5 10½

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441	British Guiana	1903–1904
442	Trinidad and Tobago	"
443	St. Lucia	1903
444	Basutoland	1903–1904
445	Leeward Islands	"
446	St. Vincent	"
447	Bermuda	1904
448	St. Helena	"
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459	Southern Nigeria	"
460	Sierra Leone	"
461	British Solomon Islands	1903–1905

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28	Gold Coast and Sierra Leone ...	Rubber.
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COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 498.

MALTA.

REPORT FOR 1905—6.

(For Report for 1904–5, *see* No. 462.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
October, 1906.

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No. 498.

MALTA.

(For Report for 1904–5, *see* No. 462.)

THE DEPUTY-GOVERNOR to THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

The Palace, Valletta,
September 3, 1906.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship the accompanying report, which has been prepared by the Lieutenant-Governor and Chief Secretary to Government, in anticipation of the publication of the Malta Blue Book for the year 1905-6.

I have, &c.,

HARRY BARRON,
Major-General,
Deputy Governor.

1125 Wt 23907 10/06 D & S 5 25921 A 2

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1905-6.

Lieutenant-Governor's Office,
Valletta,

3rd September, 1906.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to submit the following report on the annual Blue Book for the year 1905-6.

I.—FINANCIAL.

(A.) GENERAL REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

Revenue.

1. The revenue for the year 1905-6 was £467,241, and the expenditure £480,474. There was, therefore, an excess of expenditure over revenue of £13,233.

The surplus brought forward from the previous year, including the general reserve fund (£25,637), amounted to £87,271, and the net surplus standing to the credit of the Government on the 31st March last, after deducting the excess mentioned above, was £74,038.

Revenue, Estimated and Actual.

2. The estimated revenue for the year was £469,388, and the actual revenue £467,241; the actual revenue, therefore, fell short of the estimate by £2,147, and of the amount collected in the previous year by £595.

3. The estimate has been exceeded under all heads of revenue except "Harbour and Quarantine Dues," "Fees of Office and Re-imbursements," "Post Office," "Railway," "Water Service" and "Interest," which fell short of the estimate by £1,141, £1,638, £112, £807, £454 and £1,769, respectively.

The principal excesses are:—

Customs	£954
Licences, &c.	1,237
Stamp Duties	669
Rents	520

Revenue for 1904–5 *and* 1905–6 *compared.*

4. The principal increases were under (i) Customs, £6,221; (ii) licences, court fines, &c., £714; (iii) electric lighting, £448; and (iv) rents, £782; and the principal decreases under (*a*) harbour and quarantine dues, £1,234; (*b*) post office, £2,579; (*c*) railway, £1,171; (*d*) interest, £2,483; and (*e*) miscellaneous receipts, £1,431.

Increases.

5. The increases are ascribed to the following causes:—

(i) to an increase in the importation of wheat, flour and petroleum, and in the consumption of wine;

(ii) to an increase in the number of licences issued by the police for carrying firearms for sporting purposes, and in the amount of fines inflicted by the police courts;

(iii) to a larger consumption of electric current, owing to an increase in the number of Government and private installations;

(iv) to the raising of certain rents on re-valuation and payment of arrears.

Decreases.

6. The decreases are mainly attributable to the following causes:—

(*a*) to a decrease in the number of steamers calling at Malta, and in the number of vessels put in quarantine owing to a relaxation of the quarantine regulations;

(*b*) to a falling off in the sale of postage stamps, and to the fact that no payment on account of transit rates was made to the Malta Post Office by foreign administrations during the year;

(*c*) to a shrinkage in the number of passengers carried owing to the competition of the tramway;

(*d*) to the fact that the profit of the Monte di Pietà, instead of being credited to revenue, was appropriated to the repayment of a portion of the debt of that institution to the Government; also to a falling off in the profit of the Savings Bank, due, principally, to the facts—

(i) that in 1904-5 income tax for two years on dividends on Savings Bank funds invested in British securities was refunded, whereas income tax for one year only was refunded in 1905-6;

(ii) that the amount of deposits on which interest is paid was greater than in 1904-5;

(*e*) to the fact that less Water Works Department stores were issued than in the previous year.

Revenue for the last five years.

7. The revenue for the last five years is shown in the following table:—

Year.	Revenue.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£
1901	385,698	—	—
1902-3	445,066	59,367	—
1903-4	464,591	19,525	—
1904-5	467,835	3,244	—
1905-6	467,241	—	594

Expenditure.

8. The total expenditure for 1905-6 was £482,434, made up as follows:—

From General Revenue	£480,474
„ General Reserve Fund	1,097
„ Immovable Property Account ...	863
Total ...	£482,434

9. The expenditure out of the general revenue was made up as follows:—

(*a*) Personal Emoluments	£152,120
(*b*) Other Charges (including interest, pensions, military expenditure, and miscellaneous services) ...	200,362
(*c*) Public Works (including special expenditure)	127,992
Total ...	£480,474

Expenditure, Estimated and Actual.

10. The actual expenditure out of general revenue fell short of the estimate by £48,680, and exceeded that of the previous year by £21,818.

There were savings under all heads except pensions, under which there was an excess of £978, due to new pensions granted in 1905-6.

11. The principal savings were:—

Police	£6,017
Special Expenditure	9,486
Miscellaneous Services	6,662
Public Works	10,980

The saving under police is due to the transfer of clerks in the police office to other departments, and to the fact that less efficiency pay was paid than in the previous year, and that the purchase of certain articles of uniforms, &c., was deferred pending the adoption of the new police scheme.

The large savings under special expenditure and public works are chiefly attributable to the following causes, viz.:—

(i) that the repairs to certain roads could not be completed within the year owing to delays in the supply of metal by the contractor;

(ii) that certain works had to be suspended on account of heavy rains in January and February, and difficulties were experienced by contractors in engaging workmen;

(iii) that certain works could not be completed within the year owing to unavoidable delays in settling the claims of landowners in connection with easements.

The saving under miscellaneous services is mainly accounted for by the facts—

(*a*) that less manufactured wheat was exported than in 1904-5, the amount of import duty refunded on exportation being consequently below the estimate; and

(*b*) that, owing to the frequent absences of the Fleet from Malta, the amount of import duty on articles supplied to His Majesty's ships, which was refunded to the Admiralty, also fell short of the estimate.

Expenditure for 1904–5 *and* 1905–6 *compared.*

12. The expenditure in 1904-5, compared with that of 1905-6, shows a net increase in the latter year of £21,818.

Increases.

13. The principal increases are found under the following heads, viz.:—

"Pensions," £1,466—due to new pensions granted in 1905-6;

"Railway Department," £2,241—due to the purchase of a new locomotive and to renewals of rolling stock;

"Charitable Institutions," £1,335—due to periodical increments and increases of salaries; to enhanced price of provisions, and of materials required for bedding and clothing; to an increase in the number of patients in the hospitals for whom special diet was prescribed; and to an increase in the expenditure on outdoor relief;

"Special Expenditure," £9,579—due to the fact that more works were carried out in 1905-6 than in the previous year;

"Miscellaneous Services," £5,287—due to the payment of the price fixed by the Court of Appeal for a site adjoining the Government School at Floriana, to an increase in the expenses of the Mediterranean Fever Commission, and to the fact that the amounts paid towards the renewal and extension fund of the electric lighting undertaking, formerly paid under Head XXVI., Water Works and Electric Lighting Department, were last year paid out of a special vote under Miscellaneous Services.

"Public Works, I., Works and Buildings," £4,518—due to an increase in the expenditure on maintenance and to the fact that more special works were carried out in 1905-6 than in the previous year.

Decreases.

14. The principal decreases are under the following heads, viz.:—

"Water Works and Electric Lighting Department," £5,350—due to the fact that provision for making payments towards the renewal and extension fund and the sinking fund, Electric Lighting Branch, was made under "Miscellaneous Services," instead of under Water Works and Electric Lighting Department, as hitherto;

"Public Works, II., Roads, Streets, and Bridges," £3,163—due to the fact that the expenditure on maintenance and special works was less than in 1904-5.

Immovable Property Account.

15. On the 31st March, 1905, this fund amounted to £50,196, and on the 1st April, 1906, to £53,368.

Public Works Recurrent and Extraordinary.

15A. The expenditure on public works during 1905-6 was as follows:—

(i) From General Revenue:	
(*a*) Annually Recurrent Expenditure	£54,915
(*b*) Special Services	34,114
(*c*) Special Works under the Order in Council, 1901	38,962
(ii) From General Reserve Fund ...	1,097
(iii) From Immovable Property Account	863
	£129,951

The details of the expenditure under the Order in Council of 1901 are as follows:—

Schools	£7,827
Drainage	19,257
Water Works	4,473
Leper Hospital	1,994
Criminal Lunatic Ward	1,165
Roads	4,246
	£38,962

(B.) Changes in Taxation.

16. In view of repeated representations made to His Majesty's Government that the duty on beer manufactured in Malta, imposed by the Order in Council of the 26th September, 1901, bore hardly on local brewers, a further Order in Council was issued on the 20th November, 1905, substituting an import duty of 5*s.* per cantar (175 lbs.) on malt, for the excise duty of 3*s.* per barrel on beer and the former duty of 4*s.* per salm (or Imperial quarter) on malt.

There were no other changes in taxation during the year.

(C.) Assets and Liabilities.

17. The assets and liabilities of the Government on the 31st March, 1906, as compared with those of the previous year, were as follows:—

Year.	Assets.	Liabilities.	Surplus.
	£	£	£
1904–5	879,662	817,220	62,442
1905–6	871,754	797,716	74,038

(D.) Public Debt.

18. The interest paid by the Government in 1905-6, on funds invested in the "Massa Frumentaria" amounted to £2,048, as against £1,799 paid in 1904-5.

(E.) Currency.

Coin in Circulation.

19. The amount of British coin in circulation in these islands on the 31st March, 1906, was estimated to be as follows:—

Sovereigns	£450,000
Half-sovereigns	40,000
Silver and bronze	50,000
	£540,000

Note Circulation.

20. It is not possible to ascertain the note circulation, which is restricted to two of the local banks, as they are subject to no statutory control and do not publish their accounts.

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE AND INDUSTRIES.

(A.) Imports and Exports.

Imports.

21. The total value of dutiable goods imported during 1904-5 and 1905-6 was as follows:—

Year.	Amount.
	£
1904–5	9,735,859
1905–6	8,388,492

There was, therefore, a decrease of £1,347,367 in 1905-6.

22. The values of goods imported for local consumption, and of goods re-exported in the same bottoms, were as follows:—

——	1904–5.	1905–6.	Decrease.
	£	£	£
Imported for local consumption.	1,335,831	1,284,269	51,562
Re-exported in same bottoms	8,400,028	7,104,223	1,295,805
Total	9,735,859	8,388,492	1,347,367

The decrease in 1905-6 was principally in beer, cattle, frozen meat, and manufactured grain, imported for local consumption; and in wheat, Indian corn, and barley, re-exported in the same bottoms.

23. The following table shows the value of the imports in each of the five years preceding 1905-6 and the average value for that period, compared with that of the imports in 1905-6:—

Year.	United Kingdom.	British Possessions.	H.M. Ships.	Foreign Countries.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£
1900	305,010	89,208	987	7,039,084	7,434,289
1901–2	426,404	139,237	2,083	9,511,507	10,079,231
1902–3	268,040	297,853	536	5,996,369	6,562,798
1903–4	292,483	355,293	457	6,509,846	7,158,079
1904–5	251,024	2,478,761	957	7,005,117	9,735,859
Average of five years	308,592	672,070	1,004	7,212,384	8,194,051
1905–6	221,988	977,238	726	7,188,540	8,388,492
Above average ...	—	305,168	—	—	194,441
Below average ...	86,604	—	278	23,844	—

24. The total value of goods imported for local consumption in 1905-6 was £1,284,269, made up as follows:—

Imported from the United Kingdom ...	£221,988
Do. British Possessions ...	26,341
Do. Foreign Countries ...	1,035,214
Landed from H.M. Ships	726
Total ...	£1,284,269

Imports for Local Consumption.

25. The principal imports from the United Kingdom were:—

Beer, £88,796; manufactured grain, £40,984; cotton-seed oil, £2,795; potatoes, £20,832; spirits, £16,068; superior wines, £4,400; sugar, £11,765; and tobacco, £33,537.

From British possessions:—

Frozen beef and mutton, £22,568.

From foreign countries:—

Beer, £2,389; bullocks, £181,866; sheep, £1,205; horses, £6,870; mules, £1,717; wheat, £228,321; barley, £14,096; saggina, £20,457; manufactured grain, £44,637; olive oil, £38,721; cotton-seed oil, £16,831; potatoes, £8,864; pulse, £79,738; seeds, £36,163; spirits, £11,680; wine, £143,756; petroleum, £54,868; sugar, £108,336; and tobacco, £34,081.

26. The following table shows the dutiable articles imported for local consumption in 1904-5 and 1905-6, together with the amount of duty collected on each article:—

Articles.	1904-5.	1905-6.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Barley	751	565	—	186
Beer	29,869	28,348	—	1,521
Bu"	15,800	15,010	—	790
H[illegible]	556	432	—	124
In[illegible] Meat	5,327	3,928	—	1,399
Indian Corn...	121	111	—	10
Inferior Grain	38	15	—	23
Malt	—	127	127	—
Manufactured Grain ...	24,973	25,398	425	—
Mules	107	121	14	—
Oil	2,867	3,109	242	—
Petroleum	5,798	7,465	1,667	—
Potatoes	3,306	3,266	—	40
Pulse...	5,718	5,280	—	438
Refuse Grain	207	7	—	200
Refuse Manufactured Grain	67	12	—	55
Saggina	2,028	2,113	85	—
Seeds...	2,793	2,653	—	140
Sheep	229	142	—	87
Spirits	36,231	38,276	2,045	—
Sugar	5,997	6,403	406	—
Tobacco	13,288	12,070	—	1,218
Vinegar	58	71	13	—
Wheat	61,439	62,891	1,452	—
Wine...	50,167	56,143	5,976	—
Total	267,735	274,056	12,452	6,231

Net increase in 1905-6=£6,221.

Causes of Increases and Decreases.

27. The principal increases are the following:—

Wheat (£1,452) and manufactured grain (£425)—due to the ordinary increase of the population and to the abnormal importation of foreign labour which took place during the year;

Wine (£5,976)—attributable to the fact that large quantities of wine were imported from Greece and Spain, the cheap Greek wine having, apparently, again come into favour with the lower classes;

Spirits (£2,045)—principally due to the fact that several stills which had been used for clandestine distillation of alcohol were seized by the police;

Petroleum (£1,667)—due to the fact that paraffin oil is now being extensively used both for lighting and cooking;

Sugar (£406)—attributable to a rise in the price of sugar, expected towards the close of the year, which induced importers to increase their stocks.

28. The principal decreases are the following:—

Beer (£1,521)—attributable to the frequent absences of the Fleet from Malta, and to the fact that more cheap wine than beer was consumed by the labouring classes than in the previous year;

Bullocks (£790), and imported meat (£1,390).—These decreases in the importation of cattle, frozen beef, and mutton are also ascribed to the frequent absences of the Fleet;

Tobacco (£1,218)—attributable to the fact that the market was overstocked in the previous year;

Pulse and seeds (£578)—due to a falling off in the importation of caravances, beans, and cotton-seed, the harvest in Morocco and Greece having fallen short of the average production of previous years.

EXPORTS.

29. The total value of dutiable goods exported in 1904-5 and 1905-6 (exclusive of local produce) was as follows:—

Year.	Amount.
	£
1904–5	8,444,024
1905–6	7,156,848

There was, therefore, a decrease in the latter year of £1,287,176.

30. The respective values of whole cargoes which were carried in the same bottoms and of portions of cargoes which were landed and re-exported were as follows:—

——	1904-5.	1905-6.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Whole cargoes carried in same bottoms.	8,328,685	7,031,395	—	1,297,290
Portions of cargoes landed and re-exported.	115,339	125,453	10,114	—
Total	8,444,024	7,156,848	10,114	1,297,290

31. The exports for the last five years are given in the following table:—

Year.	United Kingdom.	British Possessions.	H.M. Ships.	Foreign Countries.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£
1901-2	1,598,887	1,385,708	17,428	5,945,004	8,947,027
1902-3	1,444,868	758,835	21,563	3,124,310	5,349,576
1903-4	2,259,810	508,164	18,990	3,358,919	6,145,883
1904-5	3,240,400	534,015	18,932	4,650.677	8,444,024
1905-6	2,314,079	221,924	15,209	4,605,636	7,156,848

32. The principal exports to the United Kingdom in 1905-6 were:—

Wheat, £2,212,445; barley, £89,418; and pulse £10,592, all of which goods proceeded in the same bottoms in which they were imported.

To British possessions:—

Wheat, £117,922 and barley £103,490, which goods also proceeded in the same bottoms.

To foreign countries:—

Wheat, £4,049,005; Indian corn, £47,500; barley, £362,896; inferior grain, £46,000; manufactured grain, £3,552; olive oil, £10,102; potatoes, £1,773; spirits, £5,120; wine, £3,628; petroleum, £531; sugar, £59,410; and tobacco, £12,884.

Local Produce.

33. The exports of local produce in 1904-5 and 1905-6, as reported by shipping agents, were as follows:—

Description of Produce.	Quantity.	
	1904–5.	1905–6.
	Cantars. Cwts.	Cantars. Cwts.
Potatoes	186,352 = 291,175	128,224 = 200,350
Onions	8,323 = 13,005	2,903 = 4,536
Cummin seed	2,708 = 4,231	1,382 = 2,159
Vegetables	12,059 = 18,842	10,784 = 16,850
	Dozen.	Dozen.
Oranges	38,520	39,280
	No.	No.
Goats and sheep	1,116	995
Cotton goods	Canne.* 600	Canne.* 700
	Bales. 183	Bales 215
Stone	Tons in bulk. 1,050	Tons in bulk. 450
	Slabs and blocks. 53,093	Slabs and blocks. 50,576

* 1 Canne (or Cane) = 6 ft. 10½ in.

(B.) Fisheries.

34. The quantity of large fish caught in Maltese waters during 1905-6 is estimated as follows:—

—	Cantars.
Tunny	200
	No.
White tunny, sword-fish, and grey mullet	6,000
Lampuca (dolphin)	40,000
Bonitoes	15,000

Small kinds of fish were plentiful during the year.

35. The quantity of fish imported from Sicily and Tunis is estimated at about 1,800 cantars (or about 14½ tons). The fish imported was principally tunny, dolphin, sparus, eel, grey mullet, sword-fish, mackerel, and rays.

(C.) Agricultural Industries, &c.

Area of Land under Cultivation.

36. The number of acres of land under cultivation in the two islands was 41,534, as against 40,831 in 1904-5.

Number of Holdings.

37. The number of holdings was practically stationary, and is estimated at about 10,000, with an average area of four acres per holding.

Crops.

38. Wheat and barley were grown on 13,696 acres, as against 13,887 acres in 1904-5, as shewn in the following table:—

	1904–5.			1905–6.		
	Wheat.	Barley.	Total.	Wheat.	Barley.	Total.
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
Malta	7,387	2,391	9,778	7,287	2,723	10,010
Gozo	2,196	1,913	4,109	1,513	2,173	3,686
Total... ...	9,583	4,304	13,887	8,800	4,896	13,696

It will be noticed that, while there was an advance of 592 acres under barley, there was a shrinkage of 783 acres under wheat, the net decrease in the acreage under cereals being 191 acres.

The falling off in the acreage under wheat is chiefly attributable to the heavy rains which fell in January and February last; on the other hand, the same abundant rainfall was productive of a large increase in the barley crop.

39. The number of acres of land on which "Mischiato" (wheat and barley mixed) was raised was 2,642, as against 2,420 in 1904-5.

The portion of the barley crop which was disposed of in the green stage covered 1,409 acres, as against 1,625 acres in the previous year.

40. The following table shows the total yield of cereals in the last two years:—

—	1904–5.			1905–6.		
	Wheat.	Barley.	Total.	Wheat.	Barley.	Total.
	Qrs.	Qrs.	Qrs.	Qrs.	Qrs.	Qrs.
Malta	20,443	6,681	27,129	14,598	6,382	20,980
Gozo	5,614	6,018	11,627	3,377	5,644	9,021
Total... ...	26,057	12,699	38,756	17,975	12,026	30,001

Beans and other Pulse.

41. The number of acres of land on which beans and other pulse were grown was 1,611, as against 2,041 in 1904-5.

The shortage of 430 acres is accounted for by the fact that the acreage under pulse in 1904-5 was above the average.

The following table gives the total acreage of land under leguminous crops in the two years:—

—	1904–5.			1905–6.		
	Acres.			Acres.		
	Malta.	Gozo.	Total.	Malta.	Gozo.	Total.
Beans and other pulse	2,571	915	3,486	2,910	573	3,483
Clover	4,848	1,976	6,824	5,173	2,875	8,048
Vetches	1,148	89	1,237	1,135	218	1,353
Total... ...	8,567	2,980	11,547	9,218	3,666	12,884

Potatoes.

42. The area of land planted with potatoes was 4,316 acres, as against 4,511 acres in 1904-5.

The total yield of the spring and winter crops, as compared with that of the previous year, was as follows:—

—	1904–5.	1905–6.	Increase.	Decrease.
	Cwts.	Cwts.	Cwts.	Cwts.
Exported	209,488	135,270	—	74,218
Consumed locally	146,632	41,376	—	105,256
Kept as seed	36,680	30,500	—	6,180
Total	392,800	207,146	—	185,654

The large falling off in 1905-6 is attributable to adverse conditions of climate. The very early crop suffered from excessive rainfall in January and February last; the second crop suffered from the unfavourable state of the soil, which was hardened by the sun after being soaked with water, while the drought which followed the rains had a disastrous effect on the late crop.

In places where irrigation was possible, the produce was satisfactory.

The importation of potatoes from other countries is shown in the following table:—

—	1904–5.	1905–6.	Increase.	Decrease.
	Cwts.	Cwts.	Cwts.	Cwts.
Used as seed	83,882	82,168	—	1,714
Consumed locally	40,104	20,320	—	19,784
Re-exported...	10,802	18,336	7,534	—
Total	134,788	120,824	7,534	21,498

There was, therefore, a net decrease of 13,964 cwts. in 1905-6. Of the 82,168 cwts. that were used as seed, 79,206 cwts. were imported from the United Kingdom, 2,036 cwts. from Austria, 840 cwts. from Italy, and 86 cwts. from France.

Onions.

43. The area planted with onions was 606 acres, as against 630 acres in 1904-5, and the crop amounted to 1,351 tons, as against 1,978 tons in the preceding year, showing a decrease of 627 tons in 1905-6.

Cummin Seed.

44. There was an increase of 237 acres in the area of land under cummin seed, the figures for the two years being 634 and 911 acres, respectively. The produce, which was all exported, amounted to 1,832 cwts., as against 1,713 cwts. in 1904-5.

Oranges and other Fruits.

45. The quantity of oranges, lemons, and mandarins obtained during the year was about 184,050 dozen, as against 182,346 dozen in 1904-5, showing an advance of 2,704 dozen in the year under review.

The navel or seedless orange is cultivated at present at the public gardens at Sant'Antonio, where there are over a hundred young trees which were propagated from a few trees

originally imported from Bahia, while many others have been grafted on Seville stock.

With the exception of the grape vine and the fruits mentioned above, no marketable fruits were cultivated to any appreciable extent during the year.

Cotton.

46. There was a very slight recovery from the falling off, observed in recent years, in the amount of cotton produced, the acreage of land under cotton being estimated at 688 acres, as against 587 acres in 1904-5.

The produce in lint in 1905-6 is estimated at 162,448 lbs.

Forage.

47. Forage was grown on 12,672 acres of land, as against 11,131 acres in the previous year, showing an advance of 1,541 acres, due to an increase in live-stock reared in 1905-6, which induced farmers to plant more forage than hitherto.

Live-stock.

48. The live-stock in the two islands in 1904-5 and 1905-6 is shown in the following table:—

Live-stock.	1904–5.	1905–6.	Increase.	Decrease.
Asses	3,851	3,818	—	33
Goats	18,419	20,083	1,664	—
Horned cattle	7,851	7,397	—	454
Horses	3,475	3,879	404	—
Mules	3,100	2,968	—	132
Sheep	18,529	18,574	45	—
Pigs	5,078	5,390	312	—
Total	60,303	62,109	2,425	619

Botanic Gardens.

49. The new greenhouse, which was commenced in 1900, has now been completed, and contains a large and varied collection of exotics.

Large additions were made to the collections of plants kept in these gardens.

Government Experimental Farm.

50. As in previous years, various experiments were made in the cultivation of potatoes, wheat and vegetables, and the results were reported as highly satisfactory.

(D.) Land Grants and General Value of Land.

51. 6,886 square canes of crown lands were sold during the year at an average price of 1*s.* 2*d.* per square cane (or 47·26 square feet).

52. The number of leases issued by the Government in the two islands was 436, as shown below:—

—	Urban Property.			Rural Property.			Total.
	Malta.	Gozo.	Property belonging to pious foundations.*	Malta.	Gozo.	Property belonging to pious foundations.*	
Long leases ...	1	1	—	4	1	1	8
Short leases ...	148	—	28	125	97	30	428
Total ...	149	1	28	129	98	31	436

* Administered by the Government.

The acreage and the average rent per acre of the short leases in rural tenements were as follows:—

—	Area in Acres.	Average rent per Acre.
		£ *s.* *d.*
Malta	890·73	1 13 4
Gozo	492·89	2 14 1
Property of pious foundations ...	169·04	1 5 8

(E.) Shipping.

52A. The number and tonnage of the steamers and sailing vessels which entered and cleared during the last two years are shown below:—

Year.	Steamers.				Sailing Vessels.				Total.	
	Entered.		Cleared.		Entered.		Cleared.			
	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.
1904-5 ..	2,555	3,906,524	2,551	3,899,048	1,258	79,978	1,278	81,468	7,642	7,967,018
1905-6 ..	2,432	3,653,992	2,439	3,655,140	1,092	64,176	1,072	63,209	7,035	7,436,517
Decrease	123	242,532	112	243,908	166	15,802	206	18,259	607	530,501

There was, therefore, a decrease of 235 in steamers and of 372 in sailing vessels. This general decrease is due to a falling off in the quantity of goods which arrived here in transit, which again is attributable to the keen competition offered to the port of Malta by foreign ports in this neighbourhood, where masters of vessels seem to have inducements to call in preference to Malta.

Nationality of Steamship Tonnage.—British Ships.

53. The number of British ships which called at Malta was 1,318, as against 1,469 in 1904-5, and their tonnage was 2,506,137, as against 2,818,377, giving a decrease of 151 ships and 312,240 tons.

Foreign Ships.

54. The number of foreign ships was 1,114 with a tonnage of 1,147,855), as against 1,086 ships (with a tonnage of 1,088,147) in the previous year. There was, therefore, a small increase in foreign ships of 28 in number and 59,638 in tonnage.

55. The following table shows the nationality of foreign steamers which called at Malta during 1905-6:—

Nationality.	No. of Ships.	Tonnage.
Austrian	481	318,695
Belgian	12	148,01
Danish	8	11,743
French	60	53,111
German	279	446,204
Greek	31	36,919
Dutch	41	40,006
Italian	158	190,055
Norwegian ...	22	18,601
Russian	12	10,637
Spanish	3	5,292
Swedish	1	1,405
Turkish	6	386
Total ...	1,114	1,147,855

56. The following table gives the tonnage of British and foreign shipping which entered and cleared with cargoes in 1905-6, as distinguished from vessels in ballast, compared with the figures for 1904-5:—

	1904–5.			1905–6.		
	British.	Foreign.	Total.	British.	Foreign.	Total.
Entered ...	2,749,888	1,118,601	3,868,489	2,458,924	1,176,095	3,635,019
Cleared ...	2,522,974	1,026,282	3,549,256	2,229,370	1,108,532	3,337,902
Total...	5,272,862	2,144,883	7,417,745	4,688,294	2,284,627	6,972,921

57. There was a falling off of 584,568 tons in British, and an increase of 139,744 tons in foreign shipping, giving a net decrease of 444,824 tons.

58. The total revenue collected by the Port Department from tonnage dues was £6,547, showing a decrease of £650, as compared with the amount collected in the previous year.

59. The total shipping entered and cleared for the last five years was as follows:—

Year.	Entered.		Cleared.	
	Number.	Tonnage.	Number.	Tonnage.
1901–2	3,930	3,693,252	3,922	3,695,703
1902–3	3,697	3,350,208	3,702	3,530,106
1903–4	3,625	3,594,274	3,607	3,590,994
1904–5	3,803	3,986,502	3,829	3,980,516
1905–6	3,524	3,718,168	3,511	3,718,349

III.—LEGISLATION.

60. Thirteen ordinances were promulgated between the 1st April, 1905, and the 31st March, 1906. Of these, only Nos. IX., X. and XII. of 1905 and No. V. of 1906 are of sufficient importance to require special notice in this report.

61. No. IX. of 1905 amends the notarial law (No. V. of 1855) in regard to the language in which notarial deeds are to be drawn up, and enacts that if a person appearing as a party to a deed desires to have it drawn up in English, and no objection to this is raised by any of the other parties, the deed shall be drawn up in English; but if any such objection is raised, the deed shall be drawn up in both English and Italian, the Italian text being considered the original for legal purposes.

This amendment became necessary in view of an expression of opinion by one of His Majesty's Judges to the effect that a notary was not justified in drawing up a deed in any language other than Italian unless there was a specific request to that effect from all the persons appearing as parties to the deed. It was considered that this interpretation of the law would bear hardly on British subjects having no knowledge of Italian, who might be required to sign deeds without being fully acquainted with their contents.

62. Ordinance No. X. of 1905 gives power to the Governor in Council to make regulations fixing tables of fees to be levied

for licences, permits and other acts or services in Government offices and departments. Before the passing of the ordinance, fees were levied by the Government under a notice issued by the Governor as far back as 1837, and this notice was held to imply the existence of a power to levy fees, but no such power was ever formally conferred on the Head of the Government by law.

63. Ordinance No. XII. of 1905 (an Ordinance to amend and consolidate the laws relating to the election of members of the Council of Government) embodies with the provisions of Ordinance No. VII. of 1886 the Regulations made on the 15th July, 1903, "for defining and delimiting the boundaries of electoral districts, and for regulating the registration of electors and the election of members of the Council of Government." It also enacts that, in the event of no candidates being nominated for election in any district, a report to that effect from the election commissioners shall be held to be a return to the writ within the meaning of clause 51 of the Letters Patent of the 3rd June, 1903, which lays down that, unless it has been sooner dissolved, the Council shall be dissolved at the expiration of three years from the date of the return of the first writs at the last preceding general election.

64. Ordinance No. V. of 1906 amends article 7 of the Second Sanitary Ordinance, 1900, under which physicians were absolutely prohibited from practising pharmacy except in certain specified cases. Under the amending Ordinance, the principle that physicians should not be allowed to practise medicine and pharmacy concurrently is maintained, but power is given to the Governor to allow a person holding the necessary diploma in both cases to practise pharmacy, provided that he gives up the practice of medicine.

IV.—EDUCATION.

(A.) Primary Education.

Elementary schools.

Day Schools.

65. The following table gives the number of day schools in Malta and Gozo in 1905-6:—

—	Malta.	Gozo.	Total.
Boys	29	9	38
Girls	30	9	39
Infants	5	1	6
Drawing (Boys)	5	—	5
Drawing (Girls)	5	—	5
Wood-carving	4	—	4
Sunday School (Secular Instruction) ...	1	—	1
Total	79	19	98

Night Schools.

66. The number of night schools in the two Islands was the same as in the previous years, viz., 33.

School Accommodation.

67. The principal works carried out during the year were the following:—

Completion of the new Valletta School which accommodates about 1,000 boys and girls and 400 infants.

Completion of the new wing to the School at Zebbug, Malta, providing additional accommodation for 300 boys and girls and half that number of infants.

Continuing the construction of the new Schools at Sliema, Zeitun, and Zabbar, which will provide accommodation for 1 600, 1,200, and 1,000 children, respectively.

68. The number of children to whom admission to the day schools was refused, owing to want of room, was 3,614 against 3,152 in the previous year.

Number of Admissions.

69. The number of children admitted to the day schools during the year was 6,507, and the number of those who left was 5,786, as against 7,505 and 5,443, respectively, in 1904-5.

Of the children who left, 49 (21 boys and 28 girls) were appointed monitors or monitresses in the Government Elementary Schools; 30 boys passed into the Lyceum; 17 boys were successful at competitive examinations for apprenticeships in His Majesty's Dockyard; and 30 were admitted to the Episcopal Seminary at Gozo.

Fifty-eight candidates from the Elementary Schools entered for the examination in the Art Section of the Board of Education, South Kensington, held at this centre in 1905, and twenty-four passed.

Attendance.

70. The attendance in the day schools on the 1st September, 1905, was 16,530, as against 16,715 on the same date in 1904.

The percentage of the average annual attendance to the average enrolment was 84·6, as compared with 85·5 in 1904-5.

The average annual enrolment was 15,698, as compared with 15,563 in 1904-5, while the average annual attendance was 13,290, as against 13,306 in the previous year.

The highest attendance was 18,197, as against 18,112 in the previous year, and the lowest 13,221, against 13,348 in 1904-5.

The attendance in the night schools at the beginning of the year was 2,189, as against 2,232 at the beginning of the previous year.

The percentage of the average annual attendance to the average enrolment was 55·9, as compared with 59·4 in 1904-5.

The average annual enrolment was 1,402, as against 1,514, and the average annual attendance was 785, as against 900 in 1904-5.

The highest attendance was 2,319, and the lowest 928, as against 2,276 and 936, respectively, in the previous year.

71. The total enrolment of pupils at the beginning of the year in both the day and the night schools was 18,719, as against 18,948 in 1904-5, and the average enrolment was 17,100, as against 17,077; while the average attendance was 14,075, as compared with 14,026 in 1904-5, or a percentage of 82·8, against 83·2 in the previous year.

Selection of Language of Colloquial Instruction on Admission to Infant Schools and in Standards I., II., and III.

72. The number of parents or guardians who selected the language of colloquial instruction for their children or wards, on their admission to the Infant Schools, or promotion to Standards I. and II., was 7,019, as against 7,016 in 1904-5; 94 per cent. chose English, and 6 per cent. Italian, as against 93·8 per cent. for English and 6·2 per cent. for Italian in the previous year.

The number of parents or guardians who were required to select the secondary language of instruction for their children or wards, on their being admitted or promoted to Standard III., was 2,391, as against 2,464 in the preceding year; of these, 2,299 (or 96·2 per cent.) selected English, and 92 (or 3·8 per cent.) elected for Italian, as against 95·4 per cent. for English and 4·6 per cent. for Italian in 1904-5.

Choice of Language of Examination in Higher Standards.

73. The number of parents or guardians who were called upon to select the language in which their children or wards should be examined in Standards V., VI., and VII., was 1,845, as against 1,296 in the preceding year; 64·3 per cent. selected English only, against 60·6 per cent. in 1904-5; 33·6 per cent. chose English and Italian, against 38·7 per cent. in the previous year; while 2·1 per cent. were for Italian only, against ·7 per cent. in 1904-5.

Annual Examinations.

74. 13,065 pupils were individually examined, and 10,585, or 81 per cent., obtained a pass with an average percentage of 74 marks, as against 13,170 pupils examined in 1904-5, of whom 11,115, or 84·4 per cent., passed with an average percentage of 73·6 marks.

Teachers.

75. The teaching staff was increased by 5 monitors and 20 monitresses, and the total strength of the staff during the year was as follows:—

Masters	40
Mistresses	47
Assistant teachers (males)	220
Monitors	30
Assistant teachers (females)	290
Monitresses	80
Teachers of drawing, dress-cutting, lace-making, &c.	10
Total	717

76. Two male and three female teachers were sent to England for training, as against three males and two females in 1904.

77. A local class preparatory to a course of training in England was attended by 13 males and 6 females.

78. The training schools for assistant teachers in Malta and Gozo were attended by 149 males and 185 females, and 36 males and 37 females, respectively.

79. The two male teachers who were sent to England in 1903 returned to Malta in August, 1905, and were placed in charge of schools at Gozo. These teachers, both of whom received their training at St. Mary's Training College, Hammersmith, were highly spoken of by the College authorities.

80. The number of head teachers who were trained in England is 33, viz., 18 masters and 15 mistresses.

Cost of Schools.

81. The total cost of the Elementary Schools Department was £25,259 (as against £23,953 in 1904-5), of which £20,228 was for personal emoluments and £5,031 for other charges, as against £20,544 and £3,409, respectively, in 1904-5.

Average Cost per Pupil.

82. The average cost of each pupil calculated on the average enrolment was 29*s.* 6*d.*, and calculated on the average annual attendance 35*s.* 11*d.*, as against 28*s.* 1*d.* and 33*s.* 8*d.*, respectively, in the previous year.

(B.) Secondary Education.

83. The scholastic year observed in the establishments in which secondary and higher education are given begins in October and ends in July; the returns are, therefore, one year behind those of other Government departments.

(*a.*) SECONDARY EDUCATION.

(*i.*) *Secondary School for Girls, Valletta.*

84. The average attendance in this school was 173, against 167 in 1903-4, and the percentage of attendance was 82, as compared with 83 in the preceding year.

85. Twenty candidates entered for the Oxford Local Examinations. All the senior candidates (three) passed and obtained certificates of "Associate in Arts;" two passed in third-class honours and one obtained the second place in the local order of merit; three (out of six) of the junior candidates passed; one was first in the local order of merit and was bracketed fifth in second-class honours and sixth "with distinction" in English, taking the Government prize of £9 and a "distinction" prize of £1. Of the candidates (11) who attended the preliminary examination, four passed.

86. Nineteen candidates from this school were present at the examination held in Malta in connection with the Science and Art Section of the Board of Education, South Kensington; six passed in science and four in art.

(*ii*) *Secondary School for Boys, Gozo.*

87. The average attendance at this school was 55, as against 41 in 1903-4, and the percentage of attendance was 95, the same as in the previous year.

(*iii.*) *The Lyceum, Valletta.*

88. The average number of students borne on the rolls was 513, against 483 in 1903-4.

The average daily attendance and the percentage of attendance may be seen from the following table:—

Scholastic Year.

1903–4.			1904–5.		
Average No. of students on register.	Average daily attendance.	Average percentage of attendance.	Average No. of students on register.	Average daily attendance.	Average percentage of attendance.
483	413	87	513	464	80

89. The number of boys who were admitted in 1904-5 was 110 out of 242 candidates, against 86 out of 206 candidates in 1903-4.

90. At the annual examinations held in July, 333 students were examined in English and 323 in Italian; and the number of passes in English was 320, or 96 per cent., and the number in Italian was 246, or 76 per cent.

91. One candidate from the Lyceum was examined in the Senior Division of the Oxford Local Examinations. He passed in third-class honours and obtained the second place in the local order of merit. The only "distinction" in Italian in the Senior Division at all centres fell to this candidate.

92. Of the 43 candidates from the Lyceum who entered for the Science and Art Examinations of the Board of Education, South Kensington, three passed in science and twenty in art.

(*b.*) HIGHER EDUCATION.

The University, Valletta.

93. The total number of students who attended the University in 1904-5 was 147, against 153 in 1903-4.

94. The following table gives the percentage of attendance:—

Faculty.	Scholastic Year.					
	1903–4.			1904–5.		
	Average No. of students on register.	Average daily attendance.	Average percentage of attendance.	Average No. of students on register.	Average daily attendance.	Average percentage of attendance.
Theology	22	17	80	32	32	100
Law	31	30	92	13	13	100
Medicine	19	18	96	12	12	100
Arts and Sciences	81	70	90	90	81	90

Matriculation Examination.

95. Of the 48 candidates who entered for the Matriculation Examination held in July and September, 21 passed, as against 14 out of 28 in the previous year.

Of the candidates who passed, six took up English only, one Italian only, and fourteen both English and Italian.

Average cost per Student.

96. The average cost per student was as follows:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Secondary School (Girls)	2	0	5
,, ,, (Boys)	6	11	3
Lyceum	8	0	11
University	26	10	1

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

(A.) Hospitals, &c.

General Remarks.

97. The total number of persons relieved and maintained in the Government hospitals, asylums, and poor-houses in Malta and Gozo was 6,529, as against 6,361 in 1904-5, and the number of persons who were attended by the District Medical Officers at the Government dispensaries or at their own residences was 98,176, as against 97,798 in the previous year.

98. Pecuniary assistance, amounting to £3,410, was given to 2,369 persons, as against £3,292, given to 2,495 persons, in 1904-5.

99. The total cost of the Charitable Institutions, exclusive of works, in the two Islands was £60,293, against £58,087 in 1904-5.

Monte di Pietà.

100. The total amount advanced on pledges during 1905-6 was £37,756 on 24,651 articles, as against £32,984 advanced on 23,422 articles in the previous year; and the number of pledges redeemed was 23,352, against 23,878 in 1904-5.

Industrial School.

101. The number of boys kept at the Industrial School is, at present, 40, of whom 30 are maintained by the Government at a cost of 1*s.* per diem each, and 10 are maintained by the Salesian Fathers who are in charge of the institution.

The number of boys remaining in the Industrial School on the 1st April, 1905, was 25, and the number admitted during the year was 15. As there were no deaths and no boys were discharged or withdrawn from the school during 1905-6, the number remaining on the 31st March, 1906, was 40.

There were no serious breaches of discipline, nor were any of the inmates sent to the infirmary during the year.

The total cost to the Government of the Industrial School (including outfit, tools, &c.) was £751, as against £831 in the previous year.

Subsidized Institutions.

102. The following table shows the average number of children, &c., maintained in the private institutions which receive pecuniary assistance from the Government:—

Subsidized Institutions.

Institution.	Average number of :—			
	Children.	Boys.	Orphan Girls.	Penitent Women.
The Crêche—				
Valletta	45	—	—	—
Sliema	45	—	—	—
Casa di San Giuseppe, Hamrun.	—	45	—	—
Convent of the Good Shepherd, Casal Balzan.	—	—	67	44
Total	90	45	67	44

(B.) Savings Bank.

Deposits and Withdrawals.

103. The number of depositors on the 31st March, 1906, was 8,371, and the amount standing to their credit was £590,110, of which £548,464 was invested in Imperial and Colonial securities.

104. The deposits made during the year amounted to £144,927, and the withdrawals to £149,955. There was, therefore, an excess of withdrawals over deposits of £5,028.

Cost of Working.

105. The expenses of management and the interest credited to depositors amounted to £10,431, while the revenue derived from interest on invested funds, unappropriated deposits, and sale of pass-books was £13,964, leaving a net profit to the Government of £3,533, as compared with £5,343 in the previous year.

Transactions of last Five Years.

106. The transactions of the Bank for the last five years are given below:—

Year.	No. of Depositors at end of year.	Deposits.	Withdrawals.	Total amount to Credit of Depositors at end of year.
		£	£	£
1901 ...	7,177	120,109	117,229	546,492
1902 ...	7,561	129,345	112,898	571,452
1903–4 ... (15 months)	8,177	181,772	168,318	595,897
1904–5 .	8,092	154,621	173,477	585,869
1905–6	8,371	144,927	149,955	590,110

VI.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

(A.) Police.

Strength.

107. The nominal strength of the police force on the 31st March, 1906, was 33 officers and 423 non-commissioned officers and men, and the actual strength was 26 officers and 415 non-commissioned officers and men.

Departmental Changes.

108. The departmental changes which took place during the year were the following:—

Enlistments.—Seventy-two men were enlisted as constables. There were no enlistments in the other ranks.

Deaths.—There were 2 deaths, 16 retirements on pension, 32 resignations, and 9 dismissals; and 3 constables were transferred to Corradino Prison as warders.

Promotions.—Three constables were promoted to sergeants.

Discipline.

109. On the whole, the conduct of the men was good. The breaches of discipline committed during the year were 89, for which the following punishments were awarded:—

Fined	53
Deprived of leave	10
Reprimanded	13
Imprisoned	4
Dismissed	9
Total	89

Liquor Traffic.

110. The following table shows the total number of licences which have been granted, or removed, during the past five years:—

Year.	Licences granted for the sale of wines and spirits.			Licences granted for the sale of common wine.			Total.
	Malta.	Gozo.	Total.	Malta.	Gozo.	Total.	
1901–2 ...	1,927	213	2,140	404	8	412	2,552
1902–3 ...	1,784	211	1,995	357	13	370	2,365
1903–4 ...	1,722	210	1,932	362	8	370	2,302
1904–5 ...	1,722	209	1,931	395	10	405	2,336
1905–6 ...	1,738	209	1,947	457	21	478	2,425

111. The number of new licences issued during the year was 137, while 60 licences were surrendered and 11 forfeited for breaches of the regulations.

112. The total amount collected by the Government in respect of licences for the sale of wines and spirits was £3,328, as against £3,275 in 1904-5.

Firearms.

113. The total number of persons who took out licences to carry firearms for sporting purposes was 2,159 (viz., 1,870 in Malta and 289 in Gozo), as against 1,866 (viz., 1,614 in Malta and 252 in Gozo) in 1904-5; and the fees levied amounted to £1,080, as against £933 in the previous year.

Dogs.

114. The following table shows the action of the police under Ordinance XVII. of 1888, during the last two years:—

Dogs.	1904–5.			1905–6.		
	Malta.	Gozo.	Total.	Malta.	Gozo.	Total.
Licensed	3,739	536	4,275	4,220	415	4,635
Seized	3,271	34	3,305	3,633	50	3,683
Destroyed... ...	3,410	31	3,441	3,672	48	3,720
Returned to owner	62	3	65	82	2	84

Besides the number of dogs seized by the police in 1905-6, 39 dogs were handed over to the police by the owners to be destroyed.

Lost property.

115. The following table gives the total number of articles reported to have been lost, the number of articles found, and the number delivered to the police, during the year under review:—

—	Malta.	Gozo.	Total.
Reported to the Police as lost	1,846	116	1,962
Found and delivered to the Police ...	1,098	106	1,204
Returned to the owners	367	33	400

Of the total number of articles found and delivered to the police during the year, only 400 were claimed by, and returned to, the owners.

Licensed vehicles.

116. The total number of vehicles licensed by the police during 1904-5 and 1905-6 was as follows:—

—	1904–5.	1905–6.
Malta	1,247	1,270
Gozo	80	80
Total	1,327	1,350

Aliens.

117. The number of security bonds signed under the Aliens Law was 470, as against 635 in 1904-5, and the number of aliens expelled for contraventions of that law was 94, as against 200 in the previous year.

(B.) Prisons.

118. The total number of persons imprisoned in 1905-6 is given in the following table:—

—	Remaining on 1st April, 1905.	Admitted during 1905–6.	Total.	Discharged Transferred, &c.	Died.	Remaining on 3rd March, 1906.
Malta :—						
Criminal prisoners ...	209	4,445	4,654	4,507	1	146
Debtors	—	8	8	5	—	3
Gozo :—						
Criminal prisoners ...	3	733	736	733	—	3
Debtors	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total ...	212	5,186	5,398	5,245	1	152

Admissions.

119. The number of prisoners admitted was 5,186, as against 4,528 in 1904-5, as shown below:—

Admissions.

—	1904-5.			1905-6.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Malta :—						
From Local Courts	3,704	252	3,956	3,848	426	4,374
„ Courts Martial... ...	90	—	90	70	—	70
„ Consular Courts ...	2	—	2	1	—	1
Gozo—						
From Local Courts	467	9	476	708	25	733
Total	4,267	261	4,528	4,735	451	5,186

Health of Prisoners.

120. The health of the prisoners was, on the whole, good. There were 21 admissions in hospital during the year, and the daily average on the sick list was 10·6, as compared with 15 and 16, respectively, in 1904-5. One death occurred during the year, due to heart-disease.

Discipline.

121. The general conduct of the prisoners was good. The prison offences were 259, as against 301 in 1904-5, and the punishments inflicted were:—

	Cases.
Admonition	65
Solitary confinement on ordinary diet ...	78
„ „ on bread and water	109
Reduction in class	4
Loss of good conduct stripes	3
Total ...	259

Employment.

122. The prisoners were employed as broom and mat makers, tailors, joiners, masons, painters, plasterers, shoe-makers, stainers, tinmen, plumbers, and cooks, and also in reclaiming waste land, cultivating fields, pumping water, cleaning and jobbing, and in attending sick prisoners.

The daily average number of prisoners employed as above stated was 91, viz., 86 males and 5 females, and the value of the work done is estimated at £1,848.

Revenue.

123. The receipts were the following:—

Maintenance of consular and naval convicts	£496
Sale of prison manufactures	156
Sale of produce of lands	169
Other receipts	1
Total	£822

Expenditure.

124. The total cost of the prisons for the year was £3,642, as compared with £3,819 in 1904-5, made up as follows:—

Corradino Prison, Malta	£3,475
Gozo Prison	167
Total	£3,642

(C.) Criminal Statistics.

125. The number of offences reported to the police in the last two years was as follows:—

—	1904–5.	1905–6.
Crimes	1,471	1,182
Contraventions ...	21,054	30,397
Total ...	22,525	31,579

126. There was, therefore, an increase of 9,054 in the number of offences reported. It should be noted, however, that while there was an increase of 9,343 in the number of contraventions, there was a decrease of 289 in the number of crimes.

127. The offences reported in 1904-5 and 1905-6 may be roughly classified as follows:—

——	1904–5.	1905–6.	Increase.	Decrease.
Offences against the person ...	1,921	3,833	1,912	—
Offences against the good order of families	103	336	233	—
Offences against property ...	1,151	1,356	205	—
Other offences	19,350	26,054	6,704	—
Total	22,525	31,579	9,054	—

128. The number of offences dealt with by the courts in 1905-6 was as follows:—

——	Malta.	Gozo.	Total.
Crimes	877	77	954
Contraventions	20,562	2,005	22,567
Total	21,439	2,082	23,521

The number of offences not dealt with by the courts was, therefore, 8,328, or 26·3 per cent. of the total number reported.

Of the crimes dealt with by the courts, 445, or 46·6 per cent., were against the person, and 213, or 22·2 per cent., were against property.

The number of crimes the perpetrators of which were not discovered was 288, or 23·6 per cent. of the total number reported.

129. The following table shows the distribution of the offences dealt with by the courts, according to the various police divisions:—

Division.	Crimes.	Contraventions.	Total.
A. Valletta, Floriana...	223	5,512	5,735
B. Hamrun, Misida	135	1,973	2,108
C. Cottonera	89	1,455	1,544
D. Rabato, Notabile, Dingli, Siggiewi	28	1,064	1,092
F. Curmi, Luca, Zebbug	62	2,182	2,244
G. Zurrico, Crendi, Micabiba, Chircop, Safi	21	1,105	1,126
H. Zeitun, Zabbar, Gudia, Axiak, Tarxien, Paola	126	1,945	2,071
Carried forward ...	684	15,236	15,920

Distribution of offences dealt with —continued.

Division.	Crimes.	Contraventions.	Total.
Brought forward ...	684	15,236	15,920
I. Sliema, St. Julian's	37	1,342	1,379
K. Birchircara, Lia, Balzan, Attard, Naxaro, Gargur	58	1,596	1,654
L. Musta, St Paul's Bay, Melleha ...	42	1,778	1,820
M. Gozo	77	2,005	2,082
— Marina	56	610	666
Total	954	22,567	23,521

130. As compared with the number of offences dealt with by the courts in the previous year, there was an increase of 4,958.

They were dealt with as follows:—

Summarily convicted	22,295
Committed for trial	130
Acquitted	565
Discharged for want of evidence or in default of prosecution	531
Total	23,521

The punishments inflicted on those who were summarily convicted were as follows:—

Imprisoned	406
Fined	17,928
Fined and imprisoned	39
Bound over	139
Admonished	3,782
Total	22,295

The number of persons admonished was 16·9 per cent., as against 14·05 per cent. in 1904-5.

131. There were four cases of wilful murder, and three cases of attempted murder during the year.

Superior Courts.

132. The total number of persons tried by His Majesty's Criminal Court during the year was 130, as against 144 in 1904-5, with the following results:—

—	1904-5.	1905-6.
Convicted	96	72
Acquitted	48	58
Total	144	130

133. The crimes of the persons convicted may be roughly classified as follows:—

Murder	1
Attempted murder	2
Offences against the person	37
Offences against property	16
Offences against the good order of families	9
False evidence	1
Miscellaneous offences	6
Total	72

134. The number of cases dealt with in the Civil Courts was as follows:—

—	Pending on 1st April, 1905.	Instituted in 1905-6.	Total.	Decided.	Discontinued.	Pending on 1st April, 1906.
Civil Court—First Hall ...	371	1,447	1,818	869	397	552
Commercial Court	175	870	1,045	592	273	180
Court of Appeal	94	252	346	177	63	106
Appeals from Inferior Courts...	27	65	92	43	19	30
Total	667	2,634	3,301	1,681	752	868

135. Of the 1,447 cases instituted in the Civil Court, 1st Hall, 874 were for the determination of a point of fact or law, and 573 for the recovery of sums of money amounting in the aggregate to £19,071.

In the Commercial Court the number of cases instituted was 870, of which 683 were for the determination of a point of fact or law, and 187 for the recovery of sums of money amounting in the aggregate to £29,670.

The business transacted in the Civil Court, Second Hall, was distributed as follows:—

Applications disposed of	1,775
Secret wills deposited	37
Secret wills withdrawn	20
Deposits made	£1,112

Sales and Transfers of Property.

Sales of immovable property (42) ...	£15,114
Sales of movable property (39) ...	956
	£16,070

Translation Branch.

136. The following table shows the number of judicial acts and documents translated in 1904-5 and 1905-6:—

—	1904–5.	1905–6.
Writs of summons	1,980	2,188
Official letters	4,706	4,774
Protests	647	700
Warrants...	1,048	866
Libels and applications for revocation of fidei commissum.	26	27
Applications filed in Second Hall, Civil Court ...	323	249
Deposits schedules and bills of pre-emption... ...	476	440
Writs of summons (Inventories)	154	99
Court notices	353	527
Translations of documents ordered by the Courts ...	52	26
Total	9,765	9,896

Courts of Judicial Police.

Malta Courts.

137. The business transacted by the Civil and Criminal branches is shown in the following table:—

—	Valletta.	Country Districts.	Total.
Civil Branch—			
Citations	3,428	1,557	4,985
Subpœnas	564	593	1,157
Warrants	862	280	1,142
Appeals	39	31	70
Deposits	171	116	287
Other acts	2,652	642	3,294
Cases settled	1,879	915	2,794
Cases decided	1,555	642	2,197
Criminal Branch—			
Cases decided...	10,009	7,254	17,263
Criminal investigations	222	—	222
Appeals	22	5	27
Applications from aliens	456	—	456
Applications in sanitary cases ...	94	—	94
Inquests	204	—	204

Gozo Courts.

138. The following table shows the number of cases dealt with in the Gozo Courts in 1905-6:—

—	Pending on 1st April, 1905.	Instituted in 1905-6.	Total.	Decided.	Discontinued.	Pending on 1st April, 1906.
Superior Jurisdiction	24	70	94	33	28	33
Inferior Jurisdiction	55	429	484	85	351	48
Criminal Branch	2	1,555	1,557	1,466	88	3
Total	81	2,054	2,135	1,584	467	84

The number of documents translated in the Gozo Courts was 1,045, as against 1,190 in 1904-5:—

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

(A.) Population.

139. The population on the 1st April, 1906, was estimated at 205,059, as against 202,134 on the 1st April, 1905, giving an increase of 2,925.

Births.

140. The population continues to increase every year, the excess of births over deaths in the last five years being 11,712, as shown below:—

Year.	Excess of Births over Deaths.
1901	2,113
1902-3	2,224
1903-4	2,133
1904-5	2,605
1905-6	2,637
Total	11,712

The total number of births in 1904-5 and 1905-6 was as follows:—

——	1904-5.	1905-6.
Males	4,120	4,347
Females	3,835	3,779
Total	7,955	8,126

The birth-rate was 40·68 per mille, against 40·45 per mille in 1904-5, and the average birth-rate for the last ten years was 38·4 per mille.

Deaths.

141. The number of deaths reported in the two years was:—

——	1904-5.	1905-6.
Males	2,724	2,607
Females	2,626	2,882
Total	5,350	5,489

The death-rate was 25·51 per mille in 1905-6, as against 25·40 per mille in 1904-5, while the average death-rate for the last ten years was 26·2 per mille.

In urban and suburban areas, and the rural areas, the death-rate was as follows:—

—	1904-5.	1905-6.
	Per mille.	Per mille.
Urban and suburban areas.	26·42	26·10
Rural area	23·97	24·65

It will be noticed that the general death-rate (25·51 per mille) in 1905-6 was slightly higher than in the previous year (25·40 per mille). This is due to an increase in infant mortality—to which a reference is made in paragraph 162 of this Report.

The death-rate in 1905-6, as compared with the average death-rate in the preceding two decades, was as follows:—

Decade.	Average death-rate.	Death-rate in 1905-6.
1885-94	28·83	25·51
1895-1904 ...	26·38	25·51

Marriages.

142. The number of marriages in 1904-5 and 1905-6 was as follows:—

—	1904-5.	1905-6.
Malta	1,353	1,357
Gozo	166	160
Total	1,519	1,517

(B.) Public Health.

143. The general state of public health was, on the whole, satisfactory.

Infectious Diseases.

144. The following table gives the number of cases of infectious diseases reported, and the number of deaths from each disease, during the last two years:—

—	1904–5.		1905–6.	
	No. of Cases.	No. of Deaths.	No. of Cases.	No. of Deaths.
Broncho-pneumonia	76	51	52	30
Chicken-pox ...	36	0	81	0
Continued fever ...	233	7	241	1
Diphtheria... ...	97	37	180	59
Enteric fever ...	207	68	139	52
Erysipelas... ...	73	7	69	8
Febrile puerperal diseases.	28	11	17	6
Influenza	760	25	44	8
Measles	13	0	8	0
Pneumonia ...	66	45	68	42
Remittent or Mediterranean fever.	1,110	104	1,606	138
Scarlet fever ...	7	0	10	0
Small-pox	8	1	5	1
Whooping-cough ...	240	3	303	3
Total	2,954	359	2 823	348

Fevers.

145. Enteric.—There were 139 cases and 52 deaths, as against 207 cases and 68 deaths in 1904-5.

The following table gives the number of cases reported as having occurred among the civil population, the number of deaths, and the percentage of deaths to the number of cases reported during the last ten years:—

Year.	Number of cases reported.	Number of deaths.	Percentage of deaths to Number of cases.
1896 ...	87	24	27·8
1897 ...	120	44	36·6
1898 ...	162	52	32·1
1899 ...	161	43	26·7
1900 ...	129	39	30·2
1901 ...	123	37	30·1
1902–3 ...	193	48	24·8
1903–4 ...	98	36	36·7
1904–5 ...	103	38	36·9
1905–6 ...	70	39	55·5

146. Continued fever.—The number of cases reported in the two years was 223 and 241; there were seven deaths in 1904-5, and only one in the year under review.

147. Mediterranean fever.—The number of cases reported in 1905-6 was 1,606, with 138 deaths, as against 1,110 cases, with 104 deaths, in 1904-5.

The number of cases reported as having occurred among the civil population during the last ten years, the number of deaths, and the percentage of deaths to the number of cases reported may be seen from the following table:—

Year.	Number of cases reported.	Number of deaths.	Percentage of deaths to Number of cases.
1896 ...	670	49	7·3
1897 ...	567	49	8·6
1898 ...	510	48	9·4
1899 ...	822	62	7·5
1900 ...	642	54	8·4
1901 ...	624	45	7·2
1902–3 ...	589	48	8·1
1903–4 ...	573	59	10·3
1904–5 ...	663	88	13·2
1905–6 ...	822	117	14·2

It will be observed that there has been a remarkable increase in the virulence of the disease during the last three years. There seem, however, to be some grounds for believing that mild cases of enteric fever are often reported as cases of Mediterranean fever, while mild cases of the latter disease are often not reported at all. This would affect the statistical returns for both fevers, as the death-rate would in both cases be made to appear higher than it really is.

148. The third and fourth parts of the reports of the Mediterranean Fever Commission were published in August, 1905, and February, 1906, respectively; interesting papers being contributed by the various members of the Commission.

149. The most important discovery in connection with the etiology of the disease was undoubtedly that relating to the presence of "micrococcus melitensis" in goats' milk, which was, until quite recently, largely consumed by all classes.

150. About 1,000 goats from different parts of the Island were examined, and over 40 per cent. gave a serum reaction, while 10 per cent. were found to be actually excreting the specific germ in their milk.

151. From the experiments which have been conducted by the Mediterranean Fever Commission, it has been ascertained

that "micrococcus melitensis" may, and probably does, find its way into the human body in various ways, but that it does so in goats' milk is now beyond all question.

152. The Naval and Military Authorities have not been slow to act on this discovery. The use of goats' milk has been discontinued in all military hospitals and all barracks except one, the result being a large reduction in the number of fever cases, as shown in the following table, which gives the number of cases per mille in the garrison for the first seven months of 1906, and for the corresponding months of 1905:—

Year.	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June	July.
1905... ...	2·1	2·8	4·7	4·7	8·5	9·6	9·6
1906... ...	2·4	1·2	2·2	2 3	5·0	4·1	2·0

Similar results have been obtained at the Naval Hospital, Bighi, where all goats' milk was, for some time, ordered to be boiled, and has recently been entirely given up. The Government has issued an order that in all civil hospitals goats' milk is to be boiled before it is used, and every endeavour is also being used to persuade the general public of the desirability of boiling milk before using it, but it is doubtful whether the lower classes pay much heed to the advice offered to them.

155. Scarlet fever.—Ten cases were reported during the year. There were no deaths.

Other Diseases.

154. Small-pox.—Only one case of small-pox occurred among the local population during the year. It ended fatally. The other four cases were landed from ships in harbour, and in each case the patient recovered.

155. Chicken-pox.—Eighty-one cases of chicken-pox were reported, none of which proved fatal.

156. Measles.—The cases of measles were few (eight), and the spread of the disease was checked by prompt isolation.

157. Whooping cough.—There was a serious epidemic during the year, the number of cases reported being 303; of these only three proved fatal.

158. Influenza.—There was an outbreak of influenza, which was not, however, as serious as that of the previous year. The number of cases reported was 44, with 8 deaths, as against 760 cases, with 25 deaths, in 1904-5.

159. Diphtheria.—There was a somewhat serious outbreak of diphtheria, 180 cases and 59 deaths being registered, as against 97 cases, with 37 deaths, in the previous year. As in 1904-5, the disease had one of its centres in Zabbar, where 19 cases, with 4 deaths, occurred, as against 22 cases, with 13 deaths, in 1904-5. Cases were also reported from Valletta, Cospicua, Hamrun, Rabato, and Gozo. It is remarkable that of the 36 cases of diphtheria which occurred in Gozo, only one proved fatal, while out of 144 cases reported from Malta, no less than 58, or 40 per cent., were attended with fatal results. This is due to the dislike which the lower orders in Malta have for isolation and disinfection, and for the anti-toxin treatment, in consequence of which they do not, as a rule, call in medical aid until it is too late. On the other hand, the inhabitants of Gozo are much less reluctant to go to the contagious diseases hospital, and have no objection to the use of the antidiphtheric serum.

160. The percentage of deaths to the number of cases of diphtheria reported, in the last five years, was as follows:—

Year.	Per Cent.
1901	33
1902-3	37
1903-4	45
1904-5	38
1905-6	32

161. Tubercle.—The number of deaths reported during the year was 273, against 313 in 1904-5. The rate of mortality from this disease in Malta and Gozo, during the last ten years, was as follows:—

Year.	Per 1,000.
1896	2·4
1897	2·5
1898	2·6
1899	2·8
1900	2·6
1901	2·1
1902-3	1·4
1903-4	1·4
1904-5	1·6
1905-6	1·3

Infant Mortality.

162. The number of deaths which occurred among children under five years of age was 2,781, or 53·16 per cent. of the

total number of deaths, as against 2,574, or 50·14 per cent. in the previous year.

The rate of mortality among children under 5 years of age in the last two years was 108·39 per mille and 107·08 per mille, respectively, showing a slight decrease of 1·2 per mille in 1905-6.

As pointed out in last year's report, this excessive mortality is principally due to bad feeding, clothing and nursing. The disease which causes the greatest number of deaths is enteritis, no less than 10,092 children under five years of age having died of that disease in the last decade, as shown below:—

Year.	No. of Deaths.
1896	1,037
1897	823
1898	1,030
1899	1,014
1900	942
1901	932
1902–3	1,032
1903–4	1,001
1904–5	1,032
1905–6	1,249
Total	10,092

Vaccination.

163. The following table gives the number of persons vaccinated and the number of successful and unsuccessful vaccinations in Malta and Gozo during the year under review:—

——	Successful.	Unsuccessful.	Total.
Malta	6,446	106	6,552
Gozo	1,250	—	1,250
Total	7,696	106	7,802

(C.) Sanitation.

164. The following is a list of the drainage works completed during the year under the general drainage scheme:—

Completing the drainage of Rabato and Notabile (drained area, 175,000 square yards);

Portion of drainage of Hamrun (drained area, 300,000 square yards);

Portion of drainage of the Marina, Valletta (length, 3,015 yards).

165. The works carried out during the year under the scheme for flushing the whole drainage system of Malta with sea water were the following:—

Building part of a bridge at Ghar Lapsi;

Construction portion of the road of approach to the pumping station;

Cutting rock in connection with the erection of the pumping station;

Cutting rock in connection with the building of a tank at "Tal Ghalia."

(D.) CLIMATE.

166. An abstract of the meteorological observations taken during the year is given in the following table:—

Month.	Temperature.					Rainfall.		Winds.	
	Solar Maximum.	Shade Maximum.	Shade Minimum.	Mean Daily Range.	Mean Temperature.	No. of inches.	Mean percentage Humidity.	General Direction.	Average Force.
1905.									
April ..	136·5	75·2	52·3	9·7	60·8	·410	79·1	N. & E.	3·2
May	141·0	82·8	56·0	10·2	65·3	·502	79·1	N.W. & S.	3·0
June	143·9	86·4	62·0	11·1	71·3	·010	75·3	N. & N.W.	2·5
July ...	153·0	91·8	67·0	8·7	80·7	·382	75·6	N. & W.	2·0
August ...	149·8	94·1	70·4	11·7	79 0	Nil.	75·6	N.W. & W.	1·7
September ...	153·0	88·2	65·6	10·3	77·2	·618	84·9	N.W. & W.	2·0
October ...	144·0	79·9	59·0	8·4	67·2	3·054	73·2	W. & N.W.	3·0
November ...	137·4	76·8	54·6	8·9	64·4	3·672	76·3	S. & N.W.	2·6
December ...	135·0	66·6	50·0	7·8	57·1	9·591	76·0	S. & E.	2·3
1906.									
January ...	128·1	64·9	45·4	7·5	64·6	3·666	79·2	E. & S.W.	2·7
February ...	130·0	66·2	42·0	10·0	51·9	6·850	77·4	W. & S.W.	3·5
March ...	132·0	70·7	42·0	10·5	56·0	·180	75·4	N.W. & W.	3·2

The highest temperature in the shade was 94·1 on the 29th August, and the lowest 42·0 on the 10th February and 25th March, the mean temperature for the year being 65·5 as against 65·01 in the previous year.

The mean temperature for the summer months (June, July, August and September) was 77·05, or 1·05 above the corresponding mean temperature for 1904.

The total rainfall was 28·935 inches, or 7·772 inches above the rainfall recorded in the previous year; while the rainfall during the year ended the 31st December, 1905, was 23·575 inches, or 2·760 above the total rainfall recorded in the year 1904.

It may be observed that in December, 1905, the rainfall was 9·591 inches, which is the highest figure recorded in any month during the last 22 years.

A heat wave was experienced in Malta on the 28th, 29th and 30th August.

The eclipse of the sun, which took place on the 30th August, lasted 2 hours and 33 minutes, viz., from 1.27 p.m. to 4 p.m.

The prevailing winds during the year were W. on 79 days, N.W. on 64 days, and S. on 28 days, while the average velocity was 8·7 miles per hour, against 8·6 miles per hour during the previous year.

VIII.—POSTAL, TELEGRAPH, AND TELEPHONE SERVICE.

(A.) Postal Service.

167. The following table contains details of the postal matter which was dealt with in the years 1904-5 and 1905-6:—

	1904–5.		1905–6.	
	Received.	Despatched.	Received.	Despatched.
Letters	1,504,399	1,957,241	1,585,155	2,430,948
Post Cards	229,229	653,068	232,453	467,012
Printed Matter ...	892,892	513,357	919,126	439,205
Parcels	58,613	18,453	55,077	17,383
	2,685,133	3,142,119	2,791,811	3,354,548
	5,827,252		6,146,359	

An increase of 319,107 articles.

Registered Articles.

168. The number of registered articles received at and despatched from the Malta Post Office during the year was 145,188, as against 141,082—an increase of 4,106 articles.

Mails.

169. The number of mails received was 7,237, and the number despatched 5,640, against 6,570 and 4,749 in 1904-5.

Money Orders and Postal Orders.

170. The total number of money orders issued and paid was 11,711 (£44,934), against 10,719 (£37,984) in the previous year, while the total number of postal orders issued and paid was 122,497 (£73,816), against 126,552 (73,856) in 1904-5.

Details of the number and amount of money order and postal order transactions during the last two years are given below:—

—	1904-5.				1905-6.			
			Total.				Total.	
	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.
Money Orders.								
Issued—		£		£		£		£
Foreign	5,243	20,102			5,425	24,213		
Local	150	528			406	822		
			5,393	20,630			5,831	25,035
Paid—								
Foreign	5,143	16,825			5,369	19,051		
Local	183	529			511	848		
			5,326	17,354			5,880	19,899
			10,719	37,984			11,711	44,934
Postal Orders.								
Issued—								
Foreign	96,442	53,012			92,891	53,523		
Local	460	219			156	64		
			96,902	53,231			93,047	53,587
Paid—								
Foreign	29,206	20,012			29,291	20,165		
Local	444	213			159	64		
			29,650	20,225			29,450	20,229
			126,552	73,456			122,497	73,816

Parcel Post.

171. The number of parcels received and despatched was 72,460, against 77,066 in 1904-5.

There was, therefore, a decrease of 4,606 parcels. This decrease is principally in the number of parcels received from, and despatched to, the United Kingdom, and is attributable mainly to two causes, viz., the absences of the Fleet from Malta

for longer periods than in the previous year, and to the competition of the parcel service of the Peninsular and Oriental Company, in which the maximum limit for single parcels is 50 lbs., the maximum limit for postal parcels being only 11 lbs.

(B.) Telegraphs.

172. There was no change in the telegraph system of the island, which remains in the hands of the military authorities.

(C.) Telephones.

173. The Malta Telephone Exchange, an enterprise having no connection with the Government, now has 660 miles of wires.

IX.—MILITARY FORCES AND EXPENDITURE.

174. The total strength of the garrison on the 31st March, 1906, was 10,272 officers and men, distributed as follows:—

(*a*) Regular troops:—

Officers	398	
Warrant Officers	46	
Other Ranks	8,127	
		8,571

(*b*) Militia (including R.E. Sub-marine Miners):—

Officers	56	
Warrant Officers	2	
Other Ranks	1,643	
		1,701
		10,272

175. The total expenditure on the garrison was £621,238, as against £720,788 in the previous year, while the cost of the Militia and R.E. Sub-marine Miner was £13,727, against £13,860 in 1904-5.

The Colonial contribution was, as usual, £5,000.

X.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

Visit of Her Majesty The Queen.

176. The principal event of the year was the visit of Her Majesty Queen Alexandra, who arrived on board the Royal yacht "Victoria and Albert" on the 11th May, and remained till the 13th. During her stay Her Majesty visited the principal places of interest, and received a loyal and enthusiastic welcome from the Maltese on every occasion on which she appeared in public. On the departure of the Royal yacht, the Queen was graciously pleased to cause a message to be sent to the Governor expressing her appreciation of the loyal welcome of the inhabitants.

Political Situation.

177. There was no change in the political situation during the year.

Changes in Establishment.

178. The principal changes in establishment during the year under review were the following, viz.:—

In August, 1905, Dr. Vincenzo Frendo Azopardi, Assistant Crown Advocate and Professor of Criminal and Commercial Law in the University, was appointed Crown Advocate, in succession to the late Dr. Alfredo Naudi, C.M.G., who died on the 6th July, 1905. Dr. Stefano Micallef, Advocate for the Poor, was appointed Assistant Crown Advocate, and Dr. Roberto Ganado, Advocate for the Poor.

On the recommendation of the General Council of the University, the duties of the Chair of Criminal and Commercial Law, which became vacant owing to the promotion of Dr. V. Frendo Azopardi, were divided, and Dr. G. B. Mifsud and Dr. A. Parnis were respectively appointed Professor of Criminal and Professor of Commercial Law.

Mr. E. P. S. Roupell, D.S.O., arrived in Malta on the 8th April, and assumed the duties of Assistant Secretary to Government in the place of Mr. F. C. Fuller promoted.

Lieutenant-Colonel Dr. R. Samut, Chief Government Medical Officer and Superintendent of Public Health, retired from the service on account of ill-health in October, 1905, and was succeeded by Dr. Giuseppe Scicluna, Senior Medical Officer of Health; Dr. Federico Xuereb, Medical Officer of Health, being promoted to the post vacated by Dr. Scicluna.

Dr. Attilio Critien, who was sent to Liverpool in order to qualify for the Diploma of Public Health, under the new scheme for improving the Sanitary Department, returned to the Colony

after passing the prescribed examinations, and took up his duties as Medical Officer of Health in January last.

Mr. Patrick Holland, Inspector in the Land Police, was appointed Superintendent of Prisons on the 14th November, 1905, in the place of the Marquis of San Giorgio.

The appointment of Magistrate of Judicial Police for Malta having become vacant owing to the death of Dr. Luigi Caruana, which occurred in July, 1905, Dr. G. B. Mifsud, one of the Gozo magistrates, was transferred to Malta, and Mr. Giuseppe Cremona was appointed Magistrate for Gozo and Comino, vice Dr. Mifsud.

Monsignor P. P. Farrugia, D.D., Professor of Dogmatic Theology, and Signor Gaetano Corleo, Professor of Italian Literature in the University, retired from the service under the age clause of the Pensions Ordinance, and were succeeded respectively by the Rev. Giovanni Formosa, B.A., D.D., J.U.D., and Dr. Giuseppe Casagrande, late Director of the Convitto Amedeo at Caserta, Italy. The latter gentleman, however, contracted Mediterranean fever shortly after his arrival in Malta, and died at Caserta on the 7th January. His successor had not been appointed at the close of the year.

On the retirement of Dr. V. Micallef, Professor of Materia Medica and Chemistry in the University, it was decided, on the recommendation of the General Council of the University, that there should be a Professor of Chemistry, to lecture in Organic and Inorganic Chemistry, and a Lecturer in Materia Medica (including Pharmacy, Pharmacology and Therapeutics). Dr. Temistocle Zammit was selected to fill the former appointment, and the post of lecturer was given to Dr. Alfredo Vassallo.

Mr. Robert V. Galea was appointed Lecturer in Engineering, Architecture, and Mathematics in the University, and Teacher of Architectural, Topographical and Industrial Drawing in the Lyceum, in the place of Mr. Ruggero Falzon, retired; and the Rev. Carmelo Grima was appointed Professor of Moral Theology in succession to the Very Rev. Monsignor F. Bonnici, D.D., who died on the 25th December.

Railway.

179. The gross revenue amounted to £8,758, as against £9,929 in 1904-5, or a decrease of £1,171, which, as I have stated above, is mainly due to a falling off in the number of passengers, caused by the competition of the tramway.

The total expenditure for the year, including the cost of a new locomotive (£1,980), was £11,961, or an excess of expenditure over revenue of £3,203.

The net loss to the Government on the year's working was £1,079.

On the 31st March, 1906, the railway reserve fund stood at £3,000.

Railway Technical School.

180. The average number of pupils who attended the railway technical school was 17 (as against 18 in the previous year), two of whom obtained employment in His Majesty's Dockyard, Malta.

Public Works.

I. Works and Buildings.

(*A.*) *Annually Recurrent Expenditure.*

181. The amount expended in maintenance works was £25,989, as against £23,070 in 1904-5, but it fell short of the estimate by £2,381.

(*B.*) *Special Services.*

182. The amount expended on special services was £22,746, as against £21,147 in 1904-5; this expenditure was also below the estimate by £4,850.

183. The principal works of importance carried out during the year were the following:—

Construction of a portion of the new schools at Sliema, Zabbar, and Zeitun;

Erecting an additional storey on the Rabato School;

Completion of the new school at Zebbug;

Continuing the construction of the new chapel and providing a refuse destructor at the poorhouse;

Constructing a portion of the leper asylum;

Continuing the construction of the infirmary and criminal wards at the lunatic asylum;

Repairing and improving the landing-place at the Custom House, Valletta;

Providing additional accommodation in the police station at Floriana, and converting a Government tenement in Valletta into a police dormitory.

Providing water supply for slaughtering sheds and lairs at the abattoir;

Completing the repairs to the jetty at Migiarro, Gozo;

Constructing public latrines at Cospicua, Senglea, and Marsa.

II. Roads, Streets, and Bridges.

(*A.*) *Annually Recurrent Expenditure.*

184. The expenditure on the maintenance of streets, roads, and bridges was £28,926 (as against £29,947 in 1904-5), made up as follows:—

Streets	£15,983
Roads	11,279
Moles	1,012
Bridges and Culverts	90
Retaining Walls	562
Total ...	£28,926

202,810 square yards of streets, 557,580 square yards of roads, and 440 lineal yards of moles were repaired, as compared with 536,281 square yards of streets, 652,827 square yards of roads, and 934 lineal yards of moles, repaired in 1904-5.

65 sites, of the collective area of 6,230 square canes, or 6·8 acres, belonging to private parties were purchased by the Government for the purpose of widening and aligning roads and streets.

(*B.*) *Special Services.*

185. The expenditure on roads, streets and bridges, special services, amounted to £11,368, which was below the estimate by £3,655, and the principal works carried out were:—

Completing new roads outside Porta Reale, Valletta;

Continuing the construction of the new road from Marsamuscetto to Floriana.

Miscellaneous.

186. The number of trees planted on public grounds during the year was 1,261, and the number of fruit trees and plants in the Government nurseries on the 1st April, 1906, was 25,333.

A sum of £1,898 was expended on the purchase of land required for carrying out key-plans and other public purposes, as against £3,100 in 1904-5.

Water Works.

187. The cost of the water works branch, exclusive of new works, was £12,571, and the revenue derived from water supplied and rent of meters was £18,786, as against £14,133 and £18,701, respectively, in the previous year.

188. The works of importance carried out during the year were the continuation of the tunnel which is to connect Wied-il-Kbir and Wied-Isseuda pumping stations, and the duplicating of the 9-inch main between the "Tal Kali" reservoirs and Musta Road.

189. The number of gallons of water consumed during the year was 675,250,000, as against 657,000,000 gallons in 1904-5, an increase of 18,250,000 gallons.

Electric Lighting.

190. The revenue derived from the electric lighting installation was £17,468, as against £17,020 in 1904-5, an increase of £448; and the working expenses (including interest on capital, reserve fund, and laying of house-installations) amounted to £12,548, against £12,654, giving a saving of £106.

191. The capital outlay on the 31st March, 1906, was £67,444.

192. The total number of units generated (exclusive of central station units) was 1,042,167, and the consumption of coal amounted to 3,753 tons, as against 1,094,913 units generated and 3,802 tons of coal consumed in 1904-5.

Survey of the Island.

193. The work done on the survey of the island during the year was as follows:—

	Acres.
Survey with plane table and telemeter ...	1,763·2
	Miles.
Traversing	98·8
	No.
Survey sheets checked (2·198 acres)	5⅜
Do. published (630 acres)	2
Sheets being printed at School of Military Engineering, Chatham (1,192 acres) ...	3

Social Condition of the People.

194. On the whole, the material condition of the people during the year under review was good. For some years past,

owing to the fact that large works were being carried out simultaneously by the Admiralty, the War Department, and the Civil Government, the rate of wages for labour of all classes has been abnormally high. The demand for labour was at one time so great that exorbitant wages were asked, with the result that both the dockyard authorities and the contractors for the new dry docks and breakwater were obliged to import foreign labour. With the completion of the dry docks, one arm of the breakwater and the new barracks at Pembroke, there is already a decrease in the demand for labour, which cannot but be accompanied by a corresponding fall in the rate of wages.

195. During the years of plenty the standard of living among the labouring classes has undoubtedly risen, and there is a tendency in some quarters to overlook the abnormal prosperity of the last few years, and to regard a return to a simpler standard of living as a hardship. The Government will be able to find employment for a considerable force of labour on the works connected with the drainage and water supply of the islands for a good many years to come; but the question of finding fresh outlets for the industry of the population will before long become a serious one.

196. Notwithstanding the excessive infant mortality referred to earlier in this report, the population is increasing every year by leaps and bounds, and unless the people can be brought to see that the only remedy lies in emigration on a considerable scale, the position will in a few years' time become critical. Hitherto, no arguments have been sufficient to induce the Maltese to go beyond the Mediterranean littoral, and the number of those who make up their minds to seek employment even at this short distance from their homes is inconsiderable, while there is not much room for expansion in this direction.

197. Complaints have recently been made of alien immigration, but, provided that the immigrants comply with the Aliens' Law and furnish security that they will not become a burden on the country, it is difficult to see how foreigners can be entirely shut out. Another consideration which seems to have been overlooked by those who wish to stop the influx of foreigners is that if other countries adopted a similar policy, the Maltese who now find employment abroad, at Tunis, Alexandria, Tripoli, &c., would be thrown back on their native country.

198. The outlook for the educated classes is not much more hopeful. The professions (medicine, the law, and engineering) are already overcrowded, the Government service can only give employment to a limited number of persons, and each year a certain number of young men leave the University, whose prospects of obtaining employment will every year become more

and more remote, unless they make up their minds to seek their fortunes elsewhere.

199. Trade has, on the whole, been good during the year, and tradesmen have little to complain of except, perhaps, the more frequent absences of the Fleet and the reduction in the strength of the garrison.

I have, &c.,

E. M. MEREWETHER,

Lieutenant-Governor and Chief Secretary to Government.

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COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following recent reports relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page:—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
472	British Central Africa Protectorate	1904–1905
473	Mauritius	1904
474	Fiji	"
475	East Africa Protectorate	1904–1905
476	Northern Nigeria	1904
477	British Guiana	1904–1905
478	Leeward Islands	"
479	Bechuanaland Protectorate	"
480	Basutoland	"
481	Ceylon	1904
482	St. Lucia	"
483	Ashanti	1905
484	Bermuda	"
485	Hong Kong	"
486	St. Helena	"
487	Weihaiwei...	"
488	Gold Coast	"
489	Seychelles...	"
490	Falkland Islands...	"
491	Gambia	"
492	Jamaica	1904–1905
493	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast ...	1905
494	Ceylon	"
495	Turks and Caicos Islands	"
496	Bahamas	1905–1906
497	Barbados	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
26	Northern Nigeria	Mineral and Vegetable Products.
27	Miscellaneous Colonies ...	Medical Reports.
28	Gold Coast and Sierra Leone	Rubber.
29	Ceylon	Geological Survey.
30	Pitcairn Island	Report by Mr. R. T. Simon.
31	Northern Nigeria	Cotton, &c.
32	Do. do.	Mineral Survey.
33	Southern Nigeria	Do.
34	Montserrat	Agricultural Industry.
35	Antigua and St. Kitts-Nevis...	Sugar.
36	West Indies	Work of Imperial Department of Agriculture.

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COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 535.

MALTA.

REPORT FOR 1906-7.

(For Report for 1905-6, *see* No. 498.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
August, 1907.

LONDON:
PRINTED FOR HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE,
BY HARRISON & SON, LTD., 34-40, BACON STREET, E.

And to be purchased, either directly or through any Bookseller, from
WYMAN AND SONS, LTD., FETTER LANE, E.C.,
and 32, ABINGDON STREET, WESTMINSTER, S.W.;
or OLIVER & BOYD, EDINBURGH;
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1907.

[Cd. 3285-22.] *Price* 2½*d.*

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No. 535.

MALTA.

(For Report for 1905–6 *see* No. 498.)

THE ACTING GOVERNOR TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

The Palace,
Valletta,
July 26, 1907.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you. ...ship the accompanying report, which has been prepared by the Lieutenant-Governor and Chief Secretary to Government, in anticipation of the publication of the Malta Blue Book for the year 1906-7.

I have, &c.,

HARRY BARRON, Major-General,
Officer Administering the Government.

The Right Honourable
The Earl of Elgin, K.G.,
&c., &c., &c.

1125 Wt 24282 8/07 D & S 5 29478

REPORT ON THE MALTA BLUE BOOK FOR THE YEAR, 1906-7.

Lieutenant-Governor's Office,

Malta,

25th July, 1907.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to submit the following report on the annual Blue Book for the year 1906-7:—

I.—FINANCIAL,

(A.) GENERAL REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

Revenue.

1. The revenue for the year 1906-7 was £513,594, and the expenditure £446,849. The excess of revenue over expenditure for the year was, therefore, £66,745. Including the surplus of £74,038 brought forward from the previous year, the net surplus standing to the credit of the Government on the 31st March, 1907, was £140,783.

Revenue, Estimated and Actual.

2. The estimated revenue for the year 1906-7 was £470,262, and the actual revenue £513,594, showing an excess over the estimate of £43,332, and of £46,353 over the amount collected in 1905-6.

The apparent increase in revenue is due to the transfer to revenue of the following amounts:—

Balance standing to credit of the Immovable Property Account on the 9th January, 1907 ...	£50,916
Balance of Reserve Fund, Railway	3,000
Balance of Reserve Fund, Electric Lighting ...	4,085
Balance of Renewal and Extension Fund, Electric Lighting	803
Balance of Sinking Fund, tools for flushing drainage	1,607
Balance of deposits for works chargeable to General Reserve Fund	900
Total	£61,311

The revenue collected from ordinary sources amounted to £452,283, or £17,979 under the estimate, and £14,958 less than the revenue collected in 1905-6.

3. The estimate has been exceeded under all heads of the revenue, except "Customs," "Harbour and Quarantine Dues," "Post Office," "Railway," "Water Service," "Rents," and "Interests," which fell short of the estimate by £13,008, £1,178, £2,453, £795, £979, £1,837, and £1,860, respectively.

The most important excesses are under "Land Sales" (£51,039), which was due chiefly to the transfer of the balance of the Immovable Property Account, mentioned above, and under head "Miscellaneous Receipts" (£11,780) due to the abolition of the other accounts mentioned above, the balances under which were transferred to revenue under this head.

Revenue for 1905–6 *and* 1906–7 *compared.*

4. The revenue for the year exceeded that of 1905-6 by £46,353. The principal increases were under (i.) "Fees of Office and Reimbursements," £2,275; (ii.) "Electric Lighting," £1,300; (iii.) "Miscellaneous Receipts," £11,550; and (iv.) "Land Sales," £51,039.

Increases.

5. The increases are chiefly due to the following causes:—

(i.) To a new source of revenue from fees for stamping fowls; a larger contribution by the Imperial Government towards the maintenance of the drainage and flushing systems consequent on the construction of new drainage works; and to a contribution by the War Department towards the construction of certain roads.

(ii.) To a larger consumption of electric current, owing to an increase in the number of private installations, and to payment of arrears by the military authorities.

(iii.) and (iv.) To the causes mentioned in paragraph 3.

Decreases.

6. Decreases are found under (*a*) "Customs and Port Department," £15,962; (*b*) "Harbour and Quarantine Dues," £667; (*c*) "Post Office," £815; (*d*) "Railway," £535; (*e*) "Rents," £1,408; and they are mainly attributable to the following causes:—

(*a*) To a decrease in the importation of wine in consequence of a recently-established local manufacture; and a decrease in the consumption of beer, spirits, and cattle owing to reductions in the garrison and fleet.

(*b*) To a decrease in the number of steamers calling at this Port, and in the number of vessels put in quarantine.

(*c*) To a falling off in the sale of postage stamps and in the number of parcels received, owing to the reduction of the fleet and garrison.

(*d*) To a reduction in the traffic, owing to the competition of the tramway.

(*e*) To rents remaining unpaid.

Revenue for the last Five Years.

7. The following table shows the revenue collected during the last five years:—

Year.	Revenue.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£
1902–3	445,066	—	—
1903–4	464,591	19,525	—
1904–5	467,835	3,244	—
1905–6	467,241	—	594
1906–7	513,594	46,353	—

Expenditure.

8. The total expenditure for 1906-7 amounted to £447,713, which was made up as follows:—

From General Revenue	£446,849
,, Immovable Property Account	864
Total	£447,713

9. The expenditure out of the general revenue was made up as follows:—

(*a*) Personal emoluments	£156,260
(*b*) Other charges (including interest, pensions, military expenditure, and miscellaneous services)	190,633
(*c*) Public works (including special expenditure)	99,956
Total	£446,849

Expenditure, Estimated and Actual.

10. The actual expenditure out of the general revenue fell short of the estimate by £55,086.

The only excesses of any importance were under "Pensions," £882, and "Charitable Institutions," £746; while there were

considerable savings under other heads, the most important of which are the following:—

(*a*) Police	£5,082
(*b*) Public Instruction	2,772
(*c*) Special Expenditure	12,712
(*d*) Miscellaneous Services	9,463
(*e*) Public Works Department	2,420
(*f*) Water Works and Electric Light Department	5,640
(*g*) Public Works	10,311

The above amounts have not, however, been entirely saved, inasmuch as portions of the amounts at (*c*), (*f*), and (*g*), viz., £10,613, £400, and £4,894, respectively, have been re-voted since the closing of the financial year for the completion of certain works.

Expenditure for 1905–6 *and* 1906–7 *compared.*

11. The expenditure in 1906-7 was £446,849, as against £480,474 in 1905-6, or a net decrease of £33,625 in the year under review.

Increases.

12. The principal increases were under the following heads, viz.:—

"Charitable Institutions," £2,904—due to periodical increments of salaries and a new appointment; to an increase in the number of persons admitted into the institutions, and a rise in the contract prices of certain articles; to an increase in the number of children given out to nurse; to a greater consumption of water in the Leper Asylum; and to an increase in the expenditure on the hospital for infectious diseases in Gozo owing to the prevalence of diphtheria.

"Public Works Department," £8,414—due to periodical increments of salaries and new appointments; and to the transfer of the expenditure of the Drainage Branch from head XIV. "Public Health Department."

Decreases.

13. The principal decreases were under the following heads, viz.:—

"Railway Department," £2,066—due to the discontinuance of payment of interest on the capital outlay in the second half of the year; and to the fact that no additions to the rolling-stock and to the permanent way were made in 1906-7.

"Public Health Department," £5,674—this decrease is due to the transfer of the expenditure for the maintenance of the drainage to head XXV. "Public Works Department."

"Special Expenditure," £3,319—due to the non-completion of certain works.

"Miscellaneous Services," £9,837—due to a decrease in the amount of import duty refunded to the Navy and Army consequent on the reductions in the fleet and garrison; to a decrease in the quantity of manufactured wheat exported; and to the fact that the expenditure in 1905-6 included certain special items which did not recur in 1906-7.

"Public Works," £24,803—due to fewer special services having been authorised in 1906-7; to the fact that certain special services were not taken in hand, and that other works which were commenced were not completed within the year.

Immovable Property Account.

14. The amount standing to the credit of this fund on the 1st April, 1906, was £53,368, divided as follows:—

(*a*) Government Immovable Property Account ...	£51,310
(*b*) Immovable Property Account, Pious Foundations	2,058
	£53,368

(*a*) The amount realised from sales of Government property from 1st April, 1906, to 9th January, 1907, was £343, and a sum of £737 was expended during the same period on improvements to Government tenements. The balance on the 9th January, 1907, was, therefore, £50,916.

The account having been abolished as a separate fund, the above sum of £50,916 was transferred to General Revenue under head XXIV. on that date, and the proceeds of sales of Government property from the 10th January to the 31st March, 1907 (£123), were consequently credited to that head of revenue.

(*b*) On the 31st March, 1907, the balance was £1,936.

Public Works.

15. The expenditure on public works during 1906-7 was as follows:—

(i.) From General Revenue:—	
(*a*) Annually Recurrent Expenditure ...	£57,930
(*b*) Special Services	6,296
(*c*) Special Expenditure	35,702
(ii.) From Immovable Property Account ...	864
	£100,792

(B.) Changes in Taxation.

16. There were no changes in taxation during the year 1906-7.

(C.) Assets and Liabilities.

17. The assets and liabilities of the Government on the 31st March, 1907, as compared with those of the previous year, were as follows:—

Year.	Assets.	Liabilities.	Surplus.
	£	£	£
1905–6	871,754	797,716	74,038
1906–7	855,217	714,433	140,784
Decrease	16,537	83,283	—
Increase	—	—	66,746

The decrease in the assets is chiefly due to withdrawals from the Treasury to meet repayments of deposits in the Savings Bank; and the decrease in the liabilities and increase in the surplus are due to the transfer from Deposits to the General Revenue of the sum of £61,311 mentioned in paragraph 2 of this report.

(D.) Public Debt.

18. The Colony has no public debt. Interest at 2½ per cent. is paid, however, by the Government on funds invested in the "Massa Frumentaria." The amount of interest paid in 1906-7 was £1,782, as against £2,048 paid in 1905-6, the decrease (£266) being due to payments of arrears in 1905-6, and to interest unclaimed in 1906-7.

(E.) Currency.

Coin in Circulation.

19. The amount of British coin in circulation in the Colony on the 31st March, 1907, was roughly calculated to be as follows:—Sovereigns, £400,000; half-sovereigns, £25,000; silver and bronze, £30,000; total, £455,000.

Note Circulation.

20. The note circulation is restricted to the notes of two of the local Banks ("The Anglo-Maltese Bank" and the "Banco di Malta"); but as the Banks are not subject to any statutory control, and do not publish any balance sheets, the amount of their notes in circulation cannot be ascertained.

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

(A.) Imports and Exports.

Imports.

21. The total value of dutiable goods imported during the past two years was as follows:—1905-6, £8,388,492; 1906-7, £7,096,800; decrease, £1,291,692.

22. The values of goods imported for local consumption, and of goods re-exported in the same bottoms, were as follows:—

—	1905-6.	1906-7.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Imported for local consumption.	1,284,269	1,219,819	—	64,400
Re-exported in same bottoms	7,104,223	5,876,981	—	1,227,242
Total...	8,388,492	7,096,800	—	1,291,642

The principal decreases were in wine, spirits, beer, cattle, petroleum, and frozen meat imported for local consumption; and in wheat and Indian corn re-exported in the same bottoms.

23. The following table gives the value of the imports in each of the five years preceding 1906-7, and the average value for that period compared with that of the imports in the year under review:—

Year.	United Kingdom.	British Possessions.	H.M. Ships.	Foreign Countries.	Total.
1901-2	426,404	139,237	2,083	9,511,507	10,079,231
1902-3	268,040	297,583	536	5,996,369	6,562,798
1903-4	292,483	355,293	457	6,509,846	7,158,079
1904-5	251,024	2,478,761	957	7,005,117	9,735,859
1905-6	221,988	977,238	726	7,188,540	8,388,492
Average of 5 years	291,988	849,676	952	7,242,276	8,384,892
1906-7	218,461	385,961	249	6,492,129	7,096,800
Above Average ...	—	—	—	—	—
Below Average ...	73,527	463,715	703	750,174	12,880,092

The principal imports from the United Kingdom were:—

Beer, £72,913; manufactured grain, £70,256; cotton seed oil, £8,248; potatoes, £22,511; spirits, £10,962; superior wines, £3,715; sugar, £13,784; and tobacco, £15,010.

From British Possessions:—

Frozen and preserved beef and mutton, £20,268; wheat, £340,603; barley, £13,775; and pulse, £10,625.

From foreign countries:—

Bullocks, £134,392; horses, £6,310; mules, £2,311; wheat, £5,077,516; barley, £564,122; saggina, £26,258; inferior grain, £99,061; manufactured grain, £55,804; olive oil, £41,900; cotton seed oil, £15,673; potatoes, £3,854; pulse, £108,309; seeds, £36,750; spirits, £11,362; wine, £102,984; petroleum, £47,054; sugar, £112,849; tobacco, £27,611.

Imports for Local Consumption.

24. The total value of goods imported for local consumption in 1906-7 was £1,219,819, made up as follows:—

Imported from the United Kingdom	£218,461
Imported from British Possessions	20,958
Imported from foreign countries	980,151
Landed from His Majesty's ships	249
Total	£1,219,819

25. The following table shows the dutiable articles imported for local consumption in 1906-7, and the amount of duty collected on each article, as compared with the amount received in the previous year:—

—	1905-6.	1906-7.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Barley	565	548	—	17
Beer	28,348	25,244	—	3,104
Bullocks	15,010	12,423	—	2,587
Horses	432	364	—	68
Imported meat	3,928	3,578	—	350
Indian corn	111	62	—	49
Inferior grain	15	35	20	—
Malt	127	203	76	—
Manufactured grain ...	25,398	38,755	13,357	—
Mules	121	166	45	—
Oil	3,109	3,096	—	13
Petroleum	7,465	6,917	—	548
Potatoes	3,266	3,109	—	157
Pulse	5,280	5,841	561	—
Refuse grain	7	6	—	1
Refuse manufactured grain	12	41	29	—
Saggina	2,113	2,499	386	—
Seeds	2,653	2,470	—	183
Sheep	142	97	—	45
Spirits	38,276	32,098	—	6,178
Sugar...	6,403	5,999	—	404
Tobacco	12,070	12,376	306	—
Vinegar	71	112	41	—
Wheat	62,891	53,042	—	9,849
Wine...	56,143	48,911	—	7,232
Total	273,956	257,992	14,821	30,785

Net decrease in 1906-7 = £15,964.

Causes of Increases and Decreases.

26. The only important increase was under manufactured grain (£13,357). There was a shrinkage in the importation of wheat, especially from Russia, where prices ruled high throughout the year, while the importation of flour and other manufactured grain from other countries rose to 129,184 cantars, as against 84,660 cantars in the previous year.

27. The principal decreases were the following:—

Wheat (£9,849), due to the causes mentioned above;

Wine (£7,232), due to the fact that during the year under review, large quantities of common wine were made locally, on which no excise duty was paid;

Beer (£3,104) and bullocks (£2,587), attributable to the frequent absences of the fleet and the further reduction of the garrison;

Spirits (£6,178) due, mainly, to the reduction in the naval and military forces stationed at Malta.

Exports.

28. The total value of dutiable goods exported in the past two years (exclusive of local produce) was as follows:—1905-6, £7,156,848; 1906-7, £6,250,787; decrease, £906,061.

29. The following table gives the exports for the past five years:—

Year.	United Kingdom.	British Possessions.	H.M. Ships.	Foreign Countries.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£
1902–3	1,441,868	758,835	21,563	3,124,310	5,349,576
1903–4	2,259,810	508,164	18,990	3,358,919	6,145,883
1904–5	3,240,400	534,015	18,932	4,650,677	8,444,024
1905–6	2,314,079	221,924	15,209	4,605,636	7,156,848
1906–7	1,743,241	324,677	11,313	4,171,556	6,250,787

30. The principal exports to the United Kingdom in 1906-7 were:—

Wheat, £1,533,252; barley, £173,855; inferior grain, £19,250; and pulse, £14,437; all of which goods proceeded in the same bottoms in which they were imported.

To British Possessions:—

Wheat, £154,572; barley, £128,700; and inferior grain, £32,500; which goods also proceeded in the same bottoms.

To foreign countries:—

Wheat, £3,738,548; barley, £227,301; inferior grain, £46,250; manufactured grain, £4,324; olive oil, £8,603;

potatoes, £1,588; spirits, £4,070; wine, £4,890; sugar, £68,952; and tobacco, £8,940.

Local Produce.

31. The exports of local produce in the past two years, as reported by shipping agents were as follows:—

——	1905-6.	1906-7.
	Cantars. Cwts.	Cantars. Cwts.
Potatoes	128,224 = 200,350	155,006 = 242,197
Onions	2,903 = 4,536	6,015 = 9,398
Cummin seed	1,382 = 2,159	829 = 1,295
Vegetables	10,784 = 16,850	9,865 = 15,414
	Dozen.	Dozen.
Oranges	39,280	44,000
	Number.	Number.
Goats and sheep	995	764
Cotton goods ...	Canne.* 700	Canne.* 450
	Bales. 215	Bales. 258
Stone	Tons in bulk. 450	Tons in bulk. 1,100
	Slabs and blocks. 50,576	Slabs and blocks. 49,213

* 1 Canna (or Cane) = 6 feet 10½ inches.

(B.) Fisheries.

32. Fish was plentiful during the year. The quantity of large fish caught in Maltese waters is estimated as follows:—

——	Cantars.*
Tunny	400
White tunny	16
Sword fish	40
	Number.
Lampuca (dolphin) ...	55,000
Bonitoes	20,000
Grey mullet, &c	6,000

* 1 Cantar = 175 lbs.

33. The fish imported from abroad was principally tunny, eel, sword-fish, mackerel, and rays.

(C.) Agricultural Industries, &c.

Area of Land under Cultivation.

34. The total area of land under cultivation in Malta and Gozo was 40,951 acres, as against 41,534 acres in 1905-6.

There was, therefore, a shrinkage of 583 acres, which is chiefly attributable to the fact that certain lands at Naxaro, hitherto under cultivation, have been acquired by the War Department for military purposes.

Number of Holdings.

35. The number of agricultural holdings is estimated at 10,000, with an average acreage of 4 acres per holding.

Crops.

36. The area under wheat and barley was 13,513 acres, as against 13,696 acres in 1905-6.

There was a decrease of 223 acres under wheat, and an advance of 40 acres under barley, the net decrease under cereals being 183 acres, due to the heavy rainfall in January (4·274 inches), owing to which wheat could not be sown for the late crop.

"Mischiato" (wheat and barley mixed) was raised only in Gozo, the acreage being 2,612, as against 2,642 in the previous year.

The barley, which was used for green fodder, covered 1,102 acres, as against 1,409 acres in 1905-6.

37. The total yield of cereals in 1905-6 and 1906-7 is shown in the following table:—

Year.	Wheat.	Barley.	Total.
	Qrs.	Qrs.	Qrs.
1905–6	17,975	12,026	30,001
1906–7	21,220	14,168	35,388

Beans and other Pulse.

38. The area under beans and other pulse was 1,816 acres, against 1,611 acres in 1905-6, showing an increase of 205 acres in the year under review.

Potatoes.

39. The area of land planted with potatoes was 3,890 acres, as against 4,316 acres in 1905-6.

The total yield of the spring and winter crops in 1905-6 was 207,146 cwt.; in 1906-7, 202,400 cwt.

There was, therefore, a falling off of 4,746 cwts., the past season having been somewhat unfavourable, as regards rain and temperature, for potato cultivation.

The net decrease in the importation of potatoes was 4,274 cwts. in 1906-7. Of the 75,376 cwts. of potatoes that were used as seed, 73,364 cwts. were imported from the United Kingdom, 1,280 cwts. from Italy, and 732 cwts. from Austria.

Onions.

40. The area planted with onions was 582 acres, as against 630 in 1905-6. The crop is not yet gathered, but it is estimated to yield 2,156 tons, as against 1,351 tons in the previous year.

Cummin Seed.

41. Cummin seed is cultivated only in the Island of Malta, and is intended for exportation. There were 1,367 acres under this crop in 1906-7, as against 911 acres in the previous year, the increase of 456 acres being due to anticipated greater demand for this article in consequence of the political troubles in Morocco.

Oranges and other Fruit.

42. Orange-growing remained stationary, no plantations having been added during the year under review. The damage wrought by the fruit-fly was not considerable.

The quantity of oranges, lemons, and mandarines obtained in 1906-7 was about 198,396 dozen, or an increase of 16,050 dozen as compared with the figures for the previous year.

Cotton.

43. Cotton was raised on nearly the same acreage as last year, the figures being 670 acres in 1906-7, and 668 in 1905-6. The produce, amounting to 166,534 lbs. in lint, shows, however, an increase of 4,086 lbs. over the yield in the previous year, which was 162,448 lbs.

Forage.

44. There were 12,097 acres of land under forage in 1906-7, as against 12,682 acres in 1905-6. The amount of the produce obtained during the year is estimated at 489,894 loads of 10 bundles each, as against 430,848 in 1905-6, showing an advance of 59,046 loads in 1906-7.

Live-Stock.

45. The live-stock in these islands during the last two years is shown compared in the following table:—

Live-Stock.	1905–6.	1906–7.	Increase.	Decrease.
Asses	3,818	3,905	87	—
Goats	20,083	19,231	—	852
Horned cattle	7,397	6,022	—	1,375
Horses	3,879	3,669	—	210
Mules	2,968	3,302	334	—
Pigs	5,390	5,132	—	258
Sheep	18,574	19,901	1,327	—
Total	62,109	61,162	1,748	2,695

Botanic Gardens.

46. The spring and autumn shows of the Malta Horticultural Society are now held in the Gardens.

Plants, seeds, and other garden requisites to the value of £168 were imported from Germany, France, and Italy during the year.

Government Experimental Farm.

47. Potatoes, wheat, and vegetables were grown, in continuation of experiments begun in previous years, with fair results.

No request for the spraying of crops was made to the Inspector of Agriculture during the year, the potato and tomato crops and the vines having been almost free from disease.

(D.) Land Grants, &c.

48. The number of square canes (47·26 square feet) of Crown lands alienated during the year was 1,212, at an average price of £471 per acre.

49. The number of leases issued by the Government was 302.

(E.) Shipping.

50. The number and tonnage of the steamers and sailing vessels which entered and cleared during the past two years are shown below:—

Year.	Steamers.				Sailing vessels.				Total.	
	Entered.		Cleared.		Entered.		Cleared.			
	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.
1905-6 ..	2,432	3,652,005	2,439	3,655,140	1,092	63,476	1,072	63,209	7,035	7,433,830
1906-7 ..	2,334	3,596,318	2,337	3,601,552	1,010	49,588	1,001	50,366	6,682	7,297,824
	98	55,687	102	53,588	82	13,888	71	12,843	353	136,006

There was, therefore, a decrease of 200 in the number of steamers, and of 153 in the number of sailing vessels. While this falling off is not very considerable, it is unsatisfactory, inasmuch as it shows that there is at present no tendency to a recovery from the general decline in shipping business which was observed in the previous year.

The decrease in the number of steamers, the majority of which call at this port only to coal, is attributable to increased bunker space, economy in coal consumption, and competition of neighbouring ports where the price of coal is less than at Malta.

Nationality of Steamship Tonnage.

British Ships.

51. The number of British ships which called at Malta was 1,187, as against 1,318 in 1905-6; and their tonnage was 2,430,588, as against 2,506,137, giving a decrease of 131 ships and 75,549 tons.

Foreign Ships.

52. The number of foreign ships was 1,147 (with a tonnage of 1,165,730), as against 1,114 ships (with a tonnage of 1,147,855). There was, therefore, an increase of 33 in foreign ships, and of 17,875 in tonnage.

53. The following table shows the nationality of foreign steamers which called at Malta during the year:—

Nationality.	Number of Ships.	Tonnage.
Austrian	459	299,012
Belgian	30	42,970
Dutch	52	52,567
French	56	48,812
German...	251	372,179
Greek	28	37,061
Italian	182	232,897
Norwegian	17	21,409
Miscellaneous	25	27,918
	1,100	1,134,825

54. The following table gives the tonnage of British and foreign shipping which entered and cleared with cargoes in 1906-7, as distinguished from vessels in ballast, compared with the figures for 1905-6:—

—	1905–6.			1906–7.		
	British.	Foreign.	Total.	British.	Foreign.	Total.
Entered ...	2,458,924	1,176,095	3,635,019	2,383,097	1,134,825	3,517,922
Cleared ...	2,229,370	1,108,532	3,337,902	2,260,151	1,102,941	3,363,092
Total ...	4,688,294	2,284,627	6,972,921	4,643,248	2,237,766	6,881,014

There was, therefore, a decrease of 45,046 tons in British and of 46,861 in foreign shipping, making a total decrease of 91,907 tons.

55. The total revenue collected by the Government from tonnage dues was £6,243, as against £6,547 in 1905-6, showing a decrease of £304.

56. The total shipping entered and cleared for the last five years was as follows:—

Year.	Entered.		Cleared.	
	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.
1902–3	3,697	3,350,208	3,702	3,530,106
1903–4	3,625	3,594,274	3,607	3,590,994
1904–5	3,803	3,986,502	3,829	3,980,516
1905–6	3,524	3,718,168	3,511	3,718,349
1906–7	3,334	3,645,906	3,338	3,651,918

III.—LEGISLATION.

57. Fourteen Ordinances were promulgated during the year under review, of which only Nos. VIII. and IX. of 1906 are of sufficient importance to be specially noticed in this report.

58. Ordinance No. VIII. of 1906 amends certain provisions of Ordinance No. XIV. of 1900 (the First Sanitary Ordinance) for the purpose of giving effect to a scheme of re-organisation of the Public Health Department, which is calculated to lead to a considerable improvement in the general sanitation of the islands. Another important change introduced by the Ordinance is the transfer of the Quarantine Staff and establishments (formerly under the control of the Collector of Customs) to the Public Health Department, the Chief Government Medical Officer being now responsible to the Government for the proper observance of all regulations relating to quarantine.

59. Ordinance No. IX. of 1906 amends Ordinance No. IX. of 1870, an Ordinance for better securing the collection of duties on imports. Under the Ordinance of 1870, the only penalty for smuggling was the forfeiture of the articles seized, while under the Ordinance as amended the Court has power to inflict fines, in addition to the forfeiture of contraband articles, and imprisonment in default of payment of fines.

IV.—EDUCATION.

(A.) Primary Education.

Elementary Schools.

Day Schools.

60. The number of day schools in Malta and Gozo in 1906-7 was 99, as shown in the following table, against 98 in the previous year, one new infant school having been opened during the year:—

—	Malta.	Gozo.	Total.
Boys	29	9	38
Girls	30	9	39
Infants	6	1	7
Drawing (boys)	5	—	5
„ (girls)	5	—	5
Wood-carving	4	—	4
Sunday school (Secular instruction)	1	—	1
Total	80	19	99

Night Schools.

61. The number of night schools (including five drawing schools) was 38, viz.:—33 in Malta and 5 in Gozo, as in the previous year.

School Accommodation.

62. The school at Notabile was considerably enlarged by the addition of a second storey, which provides accommodation for 200 more pupils.

The school premises at Floriana were extended by a new wing, to which the infant school will be transferred in due course.

Satisfactory progress was made with the building of the new schools at Sliema and Zabbar, the latter of which is now all but completed, and will provide accommodation for 1,000 children. Some progress was also made with the erection of the new school at Zeitun, which it is hoped will be completed in the course of this year.

63. The number of children who, on the 1st November, 1906, were registered as seeking admission, but could not be admitted for want of room, was 3,759, as against 3,614 in the previous year. The new schools at Sliema, Zabbar, and Zeitun will accommodate about 1,000 pupils more than the present schools, and there will, therefore, be 2,759 children still to be provided for.

Number of Admissions.

64. The number of children admitted to the day schools during the year was 7,094, and the number of those who left school was 5,175, as compared with 6,507 and 5,786, respectively, in 1905-6; while the number of pupils admitted to the night schools was 3,016, as against 3,024 in the previous year.

Of the pupils who left school, 46 (13 boys and 33 girls) were appointed monitors and monitresses in the Government Elementary Schools; 28 boys passed into the Lyceum; 36 boys were successful at the competitive examinations held during the year for apprenticeships in His Majesty's Dockyard; 14 were admitted to the Archiepiscopal Seminary in Malta, and 2 to the Bishop's Seminary in Gozo; 20 qualified for admission to the Dockyard School, and 3 for admissions to Military Schools; one was appointed an apprentice in the Botanic Gardens; and one obtained an appointment in the Ordnance Department.

The practice of withdrawing children from school at an early stage still prevails, though there is now a tendency to allow them to reach a higher class than heretofore. The number, in fact, who left school during the year before reaching Standard III. was 2,808, as against 2,970 in 1905-6.

Attendance.

65. The attendance in the day schools, on the 1st September, 1906, was 17,010, as against 16,530 on the same date in the previous year.

The night schools were attended by 2,127 pupils at the beginning of the scholastic year (1st October, 1906), as against 2,189 on the corresponding date in 1905.

The fall in the attendance at these schools is mainly attributable to the fact that many workmen were away from home for long periods in connection with their work and did not attend the schools.

Selection of Language of Colloquial Instruction on Admission to Infant Schools, and in Standards I., II., and III.

66. Out of 5,621 parents or guardians who were invited to select the language of colloquial instruction for their children or wards, on their being admitted to the schools, or on their being promoted to Standards I and II., 93·6 per cent. chose English, and 6·4 per cent. Italian, as against 94·0 per cent. for English, and 6·0 per cent. for Italian in 1905-6.

In the case of admissions or promotions to Standard III., out of 2,753 parents or guardians who selected the secondary language of instruction for their children or wards, 97·8 per cent. chose English and 2·2 per cent. Italian, as compared with 96·2 per cent. for English and 3·8 per cent. for Italian in the previous year.

Choice of Language of Examination in the Higher Standards.

67. The number of parents or guardians of pupils attending the higher Standards who made a choice of the language in which they desired their children to be examined, was 1,988, as against 1,845 in 1905-6. Of these, 1,364, or 68·6 per cent., selected English only; 590, or 29·7 per cent., chose English and Italian; and 34, or 1·7 per cent., chose Italian only. The corresponding percentages in the previous year were 64·3, 33·6, and 2·1, respectively.

Annual Examinations.

68. The number of pupils borne on the rolls was 13,904, as against 13,814 in 1905-6. The number individually examined was 13,248, of whom 10,875, or 82·1 per cent., obtained passes with an average percentage of 75·9 marks, as against 13,065 pupils examined in 1905-6, of whom 10,583, or 81·0 per cent., had passed with an average percentage of 74 marks.

Teachers.

69. The teaching staff was increased by two head mistresses and six monitresses, the total strength of the staff during the year being as follows—

Head masters	40
Head mistresses	49
Assistant teachers (males)	220
Monitors	30
Assistant teachers (females)	290
Monitresses	86
Teachers of drawing, dress-cutting, lace-making, &c.	10
Total	725

70. No male students were sent to England for training last year, as St. Mary's College, Hammersmith, to which they are generally sent, had no room for any stude One female student was sent to the Training College at St. Charles' Square, and was well spoken of by the authorities.

Of the present staff of 80 head teachers, 19 masters and 17 mistresses were trained in England.

71. A special preparatory training class for young teachers desirous of proceeding to England for training was again started in October last, and was attended by 11 male and 5 female teachers.

Cost of Schools.

72. The total cost of the elementary schools was £25,593, as against £25,259 in 1905-6. Of the expenditure in 1906-7,

£21,853 was for personal emoluments and £3,740 for other charges, as against £20,228 and £5,031, respectively, in the previous year.

Average Cost per Pupil.

73. The average cost per pupil, calculated on the average annual enrolment was 29*s.* 8*d.*, and calculated on the average annual attendance 36*s.*, as against 29*s.* 6*d.* and 35*s.* 11*d.*, respectively, in 1905-6.

(B.) Secondary Education.

Secondary School for Girls, Valletta.

74. The average daily attendance in this school to the end of the scholastic year (30th September, 1906) was 172, as against 173 in 1904-5. Between October, 1906, and the 31st March, 1907, 42 little boys were admitted, at the special request of their parents, and the total average attendance was brought up to 207.

Secondary School for Boys, Gozo.

75. The average attendance was 46, as against 55 in the previous year, and the percentage of attendance was 94, as against 95 in 1904-5.

The Lyceum, Valletta.

76. The average number of students borne on the registers was 621 in 1905-6, as against 513 in 1904-5.

The average daily attendance and percentage of attendance were as follows:—

Scholastic Year.

1904–5.			1905–6.		
Average No. of students on register.	Average daily attendance.	Average percentage of attendance.	Average No. of students on register.	Average daily attendance.	Average percentage of attendance.
513	464	80	621	503	81

77. The number of boys admitted in 1905-6 was 93 out of 201 candidates, as against 110 out of 242 candidates in the previous year. The falling off in the number of candidates is attributed to the fact that the entrance examination was competitive, and for a limited number of places only.

78. At the annual examinations held in July, 1906, 328 students were examined in English and 320 in Italian; and the number of passes in English was 319, or 91 per cent., and in Italian 247, or 77 per cent.

The University, Valletta.

79. The average number of students on the register of the University in 1905-6 was 146, against 147 in the previous year.

80. The percentage of attendance was as follows:—

—	Scholastic Year.					
	1904–5.			1905–6.		
	Average No. of students on register.	Average daily attendance.	Percentage o attendance.	Average No. of students on register.	Average daily attendance.	Percentage of attendance.
Theology ...	32	27	85	31	26	85
Law	13	10	81	36	28	79
Medicine... ...	12	11	97	12	11	96
Arts and Sciences	90	83	89	67	62	93
	147	131	89	146	127	86

Matriculation Examination.

81. One hundred and fourteen candidates entered for the Matriculation Examinations held in 1906. Of these, 61 were successful, against 21 out of 48 candidates examined in the previous year.

Of the candidates who passed, 17 took up English only, 5 Italian only, and 39 both English and Italian.

Average Cost per Student.

82. The average cost per student was as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
Secondary School (Girls)	1	16	1
,, ,, (Boys)	8	5	0
Lyceum	6	16	5
University	28	18	1

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

(A.) Hospitals, &c.

83. The total number of persons relieved and maintained in the charitable institutions during the year was 6,961, as against 6,529 in 1905-6. In addition to these, 97,604 persons were attended by the District Medical Officers at the Government Dispensaries or at their own home, as against 98,176 in the previous year; and pecuniary assistance amounting to £3,440 was given to 2,329 persons, as against £3,410 given to 2,369 persons in 1905-6.

84. The total cost of the institutions (exclusive of works) was £58,986, as against £60,293 in the previous year.

85. The following table gives details regarding the number of persons treated in hospitals, poor-houses, and asylums in the two islands during 1906-7:—

—	No. of inmates on 1st April, 1906.	No. of admissions.	Total.	No. discharged.	No. of deaths.	Remaining on 31st March, 1907.
Hospitals—						
Central Hospital	171	2,823	2,994	2,567	240	187
Seamen's Hospital	8	75	83	66	10	7
Santo Spirito Hospital ...	67	363	430	305	49	76
Manoel's Hospital	3	87	90	65	23	2
Gozo Hospital	32	426	458	369	61	28
Contagious Diseases Hospital, Gozo.	1	73	74	60	11	3
Poor-House, Malta	1,000	274	1,274	61	220	993
Do. , Gozo	145	37	182	6	31	145
Lunatic Asylum	676	157	833	81	43	709
Orphan Asylum	80	11	91	6	1	84
Total	2,183	4,326	6,509	3,586	689	2,234

Monte di Pieta.

86. The total amount advanced on pledges during the year was £42,258 on 25,808 articles, as against £37,756 on 24,651 articles in 1905-6; and the number of pledges redeemed was 23,708, against 23,352 in 1905-6.

Industrial School.

87. The total number of boys kept at the Industrial School was the same as in 1905-6, viz., 40, 30 of whom were maintained by the Government and 10 by the Salesian Society who have been entrusted with the management of the institution.

The total cost to the Government of the school was £896, as against £751 in 1905-6.

Subsidized Institutions.

88. The average number of children, &c., maintained in the private institutions which receive pecuniary assistance from the Government was as follows:—

—	Average number of			
	Children.	Boys.	Orphan girls.	Penitent women.
The Crêche—				
Valletta	45	—	—	—
Sliema	45	—	—	—
Casa di S. Giuseppe, Hamrun ...	—	50	—	—
Convent of the Good Shepherd, C. Balzan.	—	—	70	40
Total...	90	50	70	40

(B.) Savings Bank.

Deposits and Withdrawals.

89. The number of depositors on the 31st March, 1907, was 8,150, and the amount standing to their credit was £569,731, of which £501,045 was invested in Imperial and British securities.

90. The deposits made during the year amounted to £129,051, and the withdrawals to £158,728, as against £144,927 and £149,955, respectively, in the previous year, showing a decrease of £15,000 in deposits and an increase of £11,000 in withdrawals, due probably to the fact that higher rates of interest can be obtained from local banks.

91. The expenses of management and the interest credited to depositors amounted to £10,140, while the revenue derived from interest on invested funds, unappropriated deposits, and sale of pass-books, was £14,037, leaving a net profit to the Government of £3,897, as compared with £3,533 in the previous year.

VI.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

(A.) Police.

Strength.

92. The nominal strength of the force on the 31st March, 1907, was 33 officers and 409 non-commissioned officers and men, and the actual strength was 25 officers and 40 non-commissioned officers and men.

Departmental Changes.

93. The following were the departmental changes which took place during the year:—

Enlistments.—Seventy-one men were enlisted as constables; there were no enlistments in the other ranks.

Deaths, retirements, &c.—There were two deaths, 23 retirements on pension, 26 resignations and 4 dismissals, while 6 constables were discharged as inefficient, one sergeant was transferred to the same rank in the Marine Police, and one sergeant and three constables were transferred to Corradino Prison as warders.

Promotions.—One of the assistant superintendents was promoted to the post of senior assistant superintendent, two inspectors were promoted to assistant superintendents, and three sub-inspectors were promoted inspectors, while seven constables were promoted sergeants.

Discipline.

94. The number of breaches of discipline committed during the year was 83, and the punishments awarded were the following:—

Reprimanded	6
Deprived of leave	18
Fined	54
Imprisoned	1
Dismissed	4
Total	83

Liquor Traffic.

95. The number of new licences issued during 1906-7 was 188, as against 137 in the previous year, while 99 were surrendered, and 5 forfeited for breaches of the regulations.

96. The total amount collected by the Government in respect of licences for the sale of wines and spirits was £3,374, against £3,328 in 1905-6.

Firearms.

97. Two thousand three hundred and sixty-one persons took out licences to carry firearms for sporting purposes during 1906-7, as compared with 2,159 in 1905-6.

98. The fees levied in 1906-7 amounted to £1,181, against £1,080 in the previous year.

Licensed Vehicles.

99. The total number of vehicles licensed by the police was 1.278, as against 1,350 in 1905-6.

Aliens.

100. The number of security bonds signed under the Aliens Law was 265, against 470 in 1905-6, and the number of aliens expelled under that law was 60, against 94 in the previous year.

(B.) PRISONS.

101. The total number of persons imprisoned in 1906-7 is given in the following table:—

—	Remaining on 1st April, 1906.	Admitted during 1906–7.	Total.	Discharged.	Died.	Remaining on 31st March, 1907.
Malta—						
Criminal prisoners ...	153	4,641	4,794	4,644	1	149
Debtors	3	7	10	10	—	—
Gozo—						
Criminal prisoners ...	3	908	911	910	—	1
Debtors	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	159	5,556	5,715	5,564	1	150

102. The number of persons admitted was 5,556, as against 5,186 in 1905-6, as shown below:—

—	1905–6.			1906–7.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Malta—						
From Local Courts	3,848	426	4,374	4,309	302	4,611
„ Courts Martial	70	—	70	31	—	31
„ Consular Courts ...	1	—	1	6	—	6
Gozo—						
From Local Courts	708	25	733	869	39	908
Total	4,735	451	5,186	5,215	341	5,556

The increase in the number of admissions is mainly due to an increase in the number of contraventions of the Sanitary Laws dealt with in the Police Courts.

Health of Prisoners.

103. The general health of the prisoners was good. The number of admissions into hospital during the year was 30, and the daily average on the sick list was 18, as against 21 and 10·6, respectively, in 1905-6. There was one death during the year, due to heart disease.

Discipline.

104. The number of prison offences was 417, as against 259 in 1905-6, and the punishments inflicted were as follows:—

—	1905-6.	1906-7.
Admonition	65	145
Solitary confinement on ordinary diet	78	66
Do. do. on bread and water ...	109	197
Reduction in class...	4	8
Loss of good conduct stripes	3	1
Total	259	417

The apparent increase in the number of offences is due to a stricter enforcement of prison discipline, which was much needed.

Employment.

105. As in previous years, the prisoners were employed as tailors, mat and broom makers, joiners, masons, painters, plasterers, shoemakers, stainers, tinmen, plumbers, and cooks, cultivating fields, pumping water, and in attending sick prisoners.

Revenue.

106. The receipts of the prisons were as follows:—

Maintenance of consular and naval convicts ...	£281
Sale of prison manufactures	168
Sale of produce of lands	161
Total	£610

Expenditure.

107. The total cost of the prisons for the year 1906-7, was £3,827, as compared with £3,642 in the previous year, distributed as follows:—Corradino Prison, Malta, £3,681; Gozo Prison, £146.

(C.) Criminal Statistics.

108. The number of offences reported to the police in the past two years was as follows, roughly classified:—

—	1905-6.	1906-7.	Increase.	Decrease.
Offences against the person	3,833	3,696	—	137
Offences against the good order of families.	336	111	—	225
Offences against property ...	1,356	1,559	203	—
Other offences	26,054	25,552	—	502
Total	31,579	30,918	203	864

109. The number of offences dealt with by the Courts of Malta and Gozo was as follows:—

—	Malta.	Gozo.	Total.
Crimes	663	69	732
Contraventions	19,423	2,615	22,038
Total	20,086	2,684	22,770

The number of offences not dealt with by the Courts was, therefore, 8,148, or about 25 per cent. of the total number reported.

The number of crimes the perpetrators of which were not discovered was 307, or 29 per cent. of the total number reported.

110. The total number of persons summoned before the magistrates was 22,770, as against 23,521 in 1905-6, a decrease of 751; they were dealt with as follows:—

Summarily convicted	21,529
Committed for trial	125
Acquitted	656
Discharged for want of evidence or in default of prosecution	460
Total	22,770

The punishments inflicted on the persons who were summarily convicted were as follows:—

Imprisoned	232
Fined	17,663
Fined and imprisoned	12
Bound over	55
Admonished	3,567
Total	21,529

The number of persons admonished was 16·5 per cent., as against 16·9 per cent. in the previous year.

111. There were two cases of wilful murder, and the same number of cases of attempted murder during the year.

Superior Courts.

112. The total number of persons tried by the Criminal Court during the year was 125, as against 130 in the previous year, and the results were as stated below:—

Number of Persons Tried by the Criminal Court.

—	1905–6.	1906–7.
Convicted ...	72	82
Acquitted ...	58	43
Total ...	130	125

113. The crimes of the persons convicted were as follows:—

Murder	1
Manslaughter	1
Attempted murder	2
Offences against the person	21
Offences against property	25
Offences against the good order of families ...	19
False evidence	3
Miscellaneous offences	10
Total	82

114. Of the 1,443 cases instituted in the Civil Court, First Hall, 713 were for the determination of a point of fact or law, and 730 for the recovery of sums of money, amounting in the aggregate to £23,589.

In the Commercial Court, 1,057 cases were instituted, of which 196 were for the determination of a point of fact or law, and 861 for the recovery of sums of money amounting in the aggregate to £25,933.

The business transacted in the Civil Court, Second Hall, was as follows:—

Applications disposed of...	1,696
Secret wills deposited	23
Secret wills withdrawn	16
Deposits made	£2,859

Sales and Transfers of Property.

Fifty-one sales of immovable property for sums amounting in the aggregate to £15,700, and 40 sales of movable property for sums amounting in the aggregate to £2,032, were effected during the year in the Superior Courts.

Courts of Judicial Police (Malta Courts.)

115. The business transacted by the Civil and Criminal branches is shown in the following table:—

—	Valletta.	Country Districts.	Total.
Civil Branch—			
Citations	3,797	1,704	5,501
Subpœnas	632	600	1,232
Warrants	1,071	365	1,436
Appeals	55	32	87
Deposits	225	116	341
Other acts	2,584	774	3,358
Cases decided	1,733	763	2,496
Cases settled	1,976	849	2,825
Criminal Branch—			
Criminal investigations	209	—	209
Cases decided	12,343	6,735	19,078
Appeals	29	6	35
Applications from aliens	261	—	261
Applications in sanitary cases... ...	88	—	88
Inquests	190	—	190

Gozo Courts.

116. Two thousand five hundred and ninety-seven cases were dealt with in 1906-7, 97 of which remained over from 1905-6. 107 remained over on 1st April, 1907.

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

(A.) Population.

117. The population on the 1st April, 1907, was estimated at 206,689, as against 205,059 on the 1st April, 1906, giving an increase of 1,630.

Births.

The total number of births in 1905-6 and 1906-7 was as follows:—

—	1905 6.	1906–7.
Males	4,347	4,050
Females	3,779	3,583
Total ...	8,126	7,633

The birth-rate in 1906-7 was 37·82 per mille, against 40·68 per mille in the previous year, and the average birth-rate for the last 10 years was 38·58 per mille.

Deaths.

118. The total number of deaths reported in the two years was as follows:—

—	1905-6.	1906-7.
Males	2,607	2,916
Females	2,882	2,636
Total ...	5,489	5,552

The death-rate in 1906-7 was 25·85 per mille, as against 25·51 in 1905-6, while the average death-rate for the past 10 years was 26·08 per mille.

The general death-rate (25·85 per mille) was slightly higher than in the previous year.

Marriages.

119. The number of marriages in 1905-6 was 1,517, and in 1906-7, 1,343.

(B.) Public Health.

120. The health of the islands during the year was satisfactory.

Infectious Diseases.

121. The following table gives the number of cases of infectious diseases reported, and the number of deaths from each disease, during the past two years:—

—	1905-6.		1906-7.	
	No. of Cases.	No. of Deaths.	No. of Cases.	No. of Deaths.
Broncho-pneumonia	52	30	50	37
Chicken-pox	81	—	77	—
Continued fever	241	1	87	5
Diphtheria	180	59	327	99
Enteric fever	139	52	80	19
Erysipelas	69	8	71	7
Febrile puerperal diseases	17	6	15	5
Influenza	44	8	348	7
Measles...	8	—	5	—
Pneumonia	68	42	48	26
Remittent or Mediterranean fever ...	1,606	138	883	80
Scarlet fever	10	—	3	—
Small-pox	5	1	5	—
Whooping cough	303	3	592	33
Total	2,823	348	2,591	318

122. The number of cases of Mediterranean fever reported was 883, with 80 deaths, as against 1,606 cases, with 138 deaths in 1905-6. The decrease in the number of cases reported was, therefore, 723, or 45 per cent.

While the total decrease in the number of cases reported is 723, the decrease in the number of cases reported among the civil population was only 108, or about 15 per cent. of the total decrease, the remainder of the decrease (85 per cent.) occurring in the naval and military population. These figures furnish the clearest proof—if proof were needed—that goats' milk is the principal agent in spreading Mediterranean fever. The use of goats' milk has been absolutely prohibited by the Naval and Military Authorities, with the result indicated above. The civil population, in spite of the warnings of the Government, conveyed to them by means of leaflets printed in the vernacular, continue to use goats' milk, without even taking the precaution of boiling it. This is, in the main, due to ignorance and a tenacious adherence to old ideas and beliefs; but it is surprising to find educated people wilfully shutting their eyes to a fact that has been so clearly demonstrated.

123. The Mediterranean Fever Commission have now concluded their investigations and have issued the Fifth, Sixth, and Seventh Parts of their Reports.

124. The results of the researches of the Commission have been summed up by Colonel D. Bruce, C.B., F.R.S., Royal Army Medical Corps, in a short pamphlet published this year; and after briefly referring to the experiments conducted with a view to ascertaining how the micro-organism enters the human body, he states that the results of the experiments pointed to the conclusion that the most probable way in which the micrococcus entered the body was "by the alimentary canal, and, therefore by some infected food or drink."

125. Then came the discovery that 10 per cent. of the goats in Malta were actually excreting the micrococcus in their milk, and a flood of light was at once thrown on the subject. To quote Colonel Bruce's own words:—

"Here, then, at last has been discovered a mode of infection which explains many of the curious features in the epidemiology of Malta fever—the irregular seasonal prevalence, the number of cases which occur during the winter months, when there are no mosquitoes and little dust. It is true there are more cases in summer, and this may be explained by the temperature being more favourable for the multiplication of the micrococcus in milk that has been set aside, and to the fact that more milk and cream are used for fruit, in ice-creams, &c. It explains the liability of the officer to attack being three times as great as in the case of the private soldier, since the former consumes much more milk in various ways than the latter. It also explains the isolated epidemics which sometimes occur at any season of the year in institutions or

in messes, such as that published by Dr. Johnstone in vol. ii. of the Reports of the Commission, where a sergeants' mess was severely struck, while the men living in the vicinity escaped."

126. The consequences of prohibiting the use of goats' milk in naval and military hospitals and barracks have been mentioned above, and the Royal Society are fully justified in claiming that the results achieved by the Commission are highly satisfactory.

One case of diphtheria was landed from a ship in harbour. Of the 256 cases reported in Malta, 88 were attended with fatal results, while only 11, out of 70 cases reported in Gozo, proved fatal. The disease had centres in Sliema, St. Julian's, Curmi, Lia, Balzan, Rabato, and Notabile.

127. It should be noted, however, that the percentage of deaths to the number of cases reported was lower in 1906-7, than in any of the preceding five years.

Infant Mortality.

128. The number of deaths which occurred among children under five years of age was 2,878, or 51·8 per cent. of the total number of deaths, as against 2,781, or 50·66 per cent. in 1905-6.

The infant mortality continues to be excessive, and is attributable principally to careless feeding and nursing. As pointed out in last year's report, the greatest number of deaths among infants is caused by enteritis, from which no less than 10,406 infants have died in the past ten years.

Vaccination.

129. Four thousand and nine persons were vaccinated, 74 of the vaccinations being unsuccessful.

(C.) Sanitation.

130. The works carried out during the year in connection with the general drainage scheme were the following:—

Completing a portion of the drainage of Hamrun (drained area, 20,000 square yards);

Sinking shafts and driving galleries in connection with the deviation of the intercepting sewer at Cospicua;

Completing a section of the Marina drainage;

Completing a section of the drainage of Victoria, Gozo.

The following works were carried out under the scheme for flushing the drainage system of Malta with sea water:—

Constructing a bridge at Ghar Lapsi;

Continuing the construction of the road of approach to the pumping station;

Cutting rock in connection with the erection of the pumping station, and the building of a tank at "Tal Ghalia."

(D.) Climate.

131. The meteorological returns for 1906-7 are given in the following table:—

Month.	Temperature.					Rainfall.		Winds.	
	Solar Maximum.	Shade Maximum.	Shade Minimum.	Mean Daily Range.	Mean Temperature.	No. of inches.	Mean percentage Humidity.	General Direction.	Average Force.
1906.									
April ...	139·2	71·1	46·5	8·5	58·4	0·486	77·0	N.W. & S.E.	3·6
May ...	139·2	83·7	51·7	11·5	63·9	0·301	77·0	N.W. & W.	2·7
June ...	143·8	86·0	61·0	11·3	70·7	0·020	76·7	N.W. W.	2·5
July ...	146·4	90·7	69·1	11·1	76·9	—	74·8	N.W. & N.	2·4
August ...	148·5	92·3	68·0	10·6	78·6	1·216	71·0	N.W. & N.	2·4
September...	145·2	86·0	64·0	9·4	74·8	0·580	77·9	E. & N.	2·6
October ...	144·0	81·0	57·7	10·2	68·7	9·745	77·5	E. & S.	2·0
November ...	140·2	77·7	56·0	8·0	64·5	1·668	77·5	S. & N.	2·3
December ...	131·0	68·9	43·1	8·4	54·8	4·445	77·0	W. & S.	2·9
1907.									
January ...	124·1	60·4	42·6	7·6	51·4	4·274	75·4	N. & W.	2·8
February ...	129·8	60·1	40·5	8·2	50·7	3·980	77·1	S. & W.	3·2
March ...	130·2	62·8	40·0	8·6	51·9	2·239	72·2	N.W. & W.	3·1

The highest temperature in the shade was 92·3° on the 6th August, and the lowest 40·0° on the 14th March. The mean for the year was 63·8°, as against 65·5° in 1905-6.

The mean temperature for the summer months (June, July August, and September) was 75·2°, or 1·9° below the mean for the same months in 1905. The mean temperature for the winter months (January, February, and March) was 51·3°, or 2·9° below that of the same months in 1906.

The total rainfall was 28·963 inches, or ·038 inches above that of the previous year. The average rainfall for the past six years was 22·758 inches. The rainfall for the month of October was 9·745 inches, or ·154 inches above the previous record, which was 9·591 inches in December, 1905.

The greatest amount of rainfall in one day was 3·084 inches in October, 1906.

The prevailing winds were N.W. on 67, W. on 44, and N. on 32 days, while the average velocity per hour was 10 miles, as against 8·7 miles in the previous 12 months.

The average number of hours of sunshine per day was 8·3.

VIII.—POSTAL, TELEGRAPH, AND TELEPHONE SERVICES.

(A.) Post Office.

132. The transactions of the Post Office, as compared with those of 1905-6, show a decline in nearly every branch, owing principally to the recent reductions in the fleet and garrison.

Postal Matter Dealt with.

133. The total number of letters, post-cards, books, samples, newspapers, and parcels received and despatched was 6,000,981, as against 6,146,359 in 1905-6—a decrease of 145,378 in the year under review.

Details of the postal matter dealt with in the two years will be found in the following table:—

	1905-6.		1906-7.	
	Received	Despatched.	Received.	Despatched.
Letters	1,585,155	2,430,948	1,830,179	2,090,062
Post-cards... ...	232,453	467,012	257,322	474,006
Printed matter ...	919,126	439,205	875,849	408,694
Parcels	55,077	17,383	49,401	15,468
	2,791,811	3,354,548	3,012,751	2,988,230
	6,146,359		6,000,981	

While there was an increase of 4·56 per cent. under post-cards received and despatched, there was a shrinkage of 2·39, 5·43, and 10·47 per cent., under letters, printed matter, and parcels, respectively.

Mails.

134. The total number of mails received was 7,439, and the number despatched 5,110, as against 7,237 and 5,540, respectively, in 1905-6.

Registered Articles.

135. The total number of registered articles received and despatched was 140,843, as against 145,188 in 1905-6, a decrease of 4,345.

Money Orders and Postal Orders.

136. The total number of money orders issued and paid in the Colony was 11,095 (£44,474), as against 11,711 (£44,934) in the previous year; and the total number of postal orders

issued and paid was 113,623 (£66,643), as against 122,497 (£73,816) in 1905-6.

The number of local postal orders issued and paid has decreased almost to vanishing point, owing to the fact that British postal orders may now be both issued and paid in the Colony.

Parcel Post.

137. The number of parcels received and despatched was 64,869, as against 72,460 in 1905-6, a decrease of 7,591 parcels in the year under review.

(B.) Telegraphs.

138. There are no local telegraphs. The foreign lines are in the hands of the Eastern Telegraph Company.

(C.) Telephones.

139. The total length of aerial telephone wires belonging to the military authorities on the 31st March, 1907, was 626½ miles, the total length open to the public being 18½ miles.

140. There is also a telephone service conducted by a private company, which has 696 miles of wires.

IX.—MILITARY FORCES AND EXPENDITURE.

141. The total strength of the garrison on the 31st March, 1907, was 8,709 of all ranks, as against 10,272 on the corresponding date in the previous year, distributed as follows:—

(*a*) Regular troops:—

Officers	301	
Warrant officers	45	
Non-commissioned officers and men	6,631	
		6,977

(*b*) Militia (King's Own Malta Regiment and Royal Engineers, Malta Division):—

Officers	55	
Warrant officers	2	
Non-commissioned officers and men	1,675	
		1,732
		8,709

142. The total expenditure on the garrison was £494,439, as against £621,238 in the previous year, while the cost of the militia was £14,267, against £13,727 in 1905-6.

The Colonial contribution was, as usual, £5,000.

X.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

Political Situation.

143. There was no change in the political situation during the year.

Changes in Establishment.

144. In May, 1906, Mr. James Frendo Azopardi, Assistant Superintendent of Police, was appointed Senior Assistant Superintendent, in the place of Mr. Tancred Curmi who was promoted to the post of Superintendent in July, 1903, in succession to Commander La Primaudaye; while Inspectors Ruggero Lapira and Antonio Busuttil were appointed Assistant Superintendents in succession to Mr. Antonio Camilleri, retired, and Mr. James Frendo Azopardi.

On the death of Judge Paolo de Bono, which occurred in November, 1906, Dr. Alfred Parnis, a leading member of the local Bar and Professor of Commercial Law in the University, was raised to the Bench. In order not to disturb the course of lectures in Commercial Law, which had already been commenced, it was arranged that the Chair should continue to be occupied by Dr. Parnis until the completion of the course, when a new Professor will be appointed.

Considerable difficulty was experienced in filling the Chair of Italian Literature which became vacant in January, 1906, owing to the death of Professor Casagrande. Eventually, the appointment was given to Count Antonio Boselli of Rome, who entered upon his duties in October last.

Railway.

145. The gross revenue for the year was £8,223, as against £8,758 in 1905-6, and the expenditure, including the cost of renewals (£2,900), was £9,494, as against £11,961 in the previous year.

The falling-off in the revenue is due to the causes mentioned in paragraph 6 of this report.

Railway Technical School.

146. The average number of apprentices who attended the school during the year under review was 16, as against 17 in 1905-6.

Public Works.

I.—Works and Buildings.

(*A.*) *Annually Recurrent Expenditure.*

147. The amount expended on maintenance works in 1906-7 was £25,596, as against £25,989 in the previous year. It fell short of the estimate by £3,194.

(*B.*) *Special Services.*

148. The amount expended on special services was £6,601, against £22,746 in 1905-6.

The principal works carried out during the year were the following:—

Providing additional accommodation at the Floriana School;

Constructing portions of the new schools at Sliema, Zabbar, and Zeitun;

Constructing a portion of the Leper Asylum;

Completing the infirmary at the Lunatic Asylum, and constructing a portion of the criminal ward in the same institution; and

Improvements in the Valletta Market.

II.—Roads, Streets and Bridges.

(*A.*) *Annually Recurrent Expenditure.*

149. The expenditure on the maintenance of roads, streets, and bridges was £29,781 (against £28,926 in 1905-6) made up as follows:—

Streets	£16,363
Roads	12,436
Moles	572
Bridges and culverts	133
Retaining walls	277
	£29,781

218,006 square yards of streets, 539,392 square yards of roads, and 283 lineal yards of moles were repaired, as compared with 202,810 square yards of streets, 557,580 square yards of roads and 440 lineal yards of moles repaired in the previous year.

A total area of 2,637 square canes (2·9 acres) of land belonging to private parties was purchased by the Government for the purpose of widening and aligning roads and streets.

(*B.*) *Special Services.*

150. The expenditure on special services amounted to £10556, and the principal new works carried out were:—

The construction of a road from Jews' Sally Port to the landing place at Marsamuscetto, Valletta; and

The construction of a portion of a road from Spinola Bay to St. George's Bay.

Miscellaneous.

151. Owing to want of funds, the number of trees planted on public grounds was only 520, as against 1,261 in the previous year.

The number of fruit trees and plants in the Government Nurseries on the 1st April, 1907, was 29,240.

A sum of £1,784 was expended (against £1,898 in 1905-6) in connection with the acquisition of land required for carrying out key plans and for other public purposes.

Waterworks.

152. The cost of the water works branch (exclusive of new works) was £13,013, and the revenue derived from water supplied and rent of meters, was £19,256, as against £12,571 and £18,786, respectively, in 1905-6.

153. The only works of importance carried out during the year was the deepening of the tunnel connecting the Wied-el-Kbir and Wied Isseuda pumping stations, and the laying of the main connecting Gozo pumping stations with a new service reservoir at Nadur.

154. Good progress was made with the construction of a service reservoir for Sliema at "San Juan tal Gharar" which was commenced during the year.

155. 657,000,000 gallons of water were consumed during the year, as against 675,000,000 gallons consumed in 1905-6.

Electric Lighting.

156. The revenue derived from the electric lighting installation was £18,293, against £17,468 in 1905-6, an increase of £825, and the working expenses (including interest on capital, reserve fund, and laying of house installations) amounted to £11,057, against £12,548, giving a saving of £1,491.

157. The capital outlay on 31st March, 1907, was £69,544, and the net profit on the year's working was £7,236.

158. The total number of units generated (exclusive of Central Station units) was 972,657, and the consumption of coal amounted to 3,279 tons, as against 1,042,167 units generated and 3,753 tons of coal consumed in 1905-6.

The saving in the number of units generated, and in the consumption of coal is mainly attributable to the introduction of a new pattern of lamp, owing to which the consumption of current has been reduced by about 28 per cent. The consumption of coal per unit generated was 7·5 lbs., against 8 lbs. in the previous year.

Survey of the Island.

159. The work done on the survey of the island during 1906-7 was as follows:—

	Acres.
Survey with plane table and telemeter ...	2,231·9
	Miles.
Traversing	102·4
	No.
Sheets checked (2,789 acres)	5¾
Sheets published (1,192 acres)	3
Sheets being printed at the School of Military Engineering, Chatham (2,336 acres)	5

Social Condition of the People.

160. There has been little change in the social condition of the people since last year.

161. During the years when labour was scarce and wages high, a good many agriculturists were tempted by the high rate of wages to leave their occupation and take employment on Government works, and agriculture suffered to a certain extent. Now that the demand for labour has decreased, it is hoped that some of the labourers will return to the land.

162. The reductions in the fleet and garrison have no doubt caused considerable loss to shopkeepers, boatmen, cabdrivers and other classes. A large proportion of the pay of the men is spent locally, and the removal of six battleships and three battalions of infantry cannot fail to make a serious difference in the earnings of the classes mentioned above. In addition to this, a good many houses and flats, which were formerly occupied by the wives and families of officers during the winter, are now vacant.

163. Every year the births exceed the deaths by over 2,000, and unless an outlet is found for the surplus population, the situation will, in a few years' time, become acute.

I have, &c.,

E. M. Merewether,

Lieutenant-Governor and
Chief Secretary to Government.

COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following recent reports relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, &c.	Year.
502	Straits Settlements	1905
503	Gibraltar	"
504	Trinidad and Tobago...	1905–1906
505	St. Lucia	1905
506	Mauritius	"
507	Southern Nigeria (Lagos)	"
508	Somaliland	1905–1906
509	Fiji	1905
510	St. Vincent	1905–1906
511	Sierra Leone	1905
512	Southern Nigeria	"
513	Basutoland	1905–1906
514	British Guiana	"
515	British Honduras	1905
516	Northern Nigeria	1905–1906
517	Bechuanaland Protectorate	"
518	Leeward Islands	"
519	East Africa Protectorate	"
520	Seychelles	1906
521	Hong Kong	"
522	Falkland Islands	"
523	Ashanti...	"
524	Jamaica	1905–1906
525	Uganda...	"
526	St. Helena	1906
527	Ceylon	"
528	Bermuda	"
529	Gibraltar	"
530	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	"
531	Sierra Leone	"
532	Colonial Survey Committee	1906–1907
533	Weihaiwei	1906
534	Gold Coast	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
34	Montserrat	Agricultural Industry.
35	Antigua and St. Kitts-Nevis ...	Sugar.
36	West Indies	Work of Imperial Department of Agriculture.
37	Ceylon	Mineral Survey, 1904–5.
38	St. Helena	Agriculture.
39	Jamaica	Cayman Islands.
40	Northern Nigeria	Taxation of Natives.
41	East Africa Protectorate ...	Report on Kenia Forests.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 571.

MALTA.

REPORT FOR 1907-8.

(For Report for 1906-7, *see* No. 535.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty
August, 1908.

LONDON:
PRINTED FOR HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE,
By DARLING & SON, Ltd., 34-40, Bacon Street, E.

And to be purchased, either directly or through any Bookseller, from
WYMAN and SONS, Ltd., Fetter Lane, E.C., and
32, Abingdon Street, Westminster, S.W.; or
OLIVER & BOYD, Tweeddale Court, Edinburgh; or
E. PONSONBY, 116, Grafton Street, Dublin.

1908.

[Cd. 3729-35.] *Price* 2½*d.*

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No. 571.

MALTA.

(For Report for 1906–7 *see* No. 535.)

THE GOVERNOR to the SECRETARY OF STATE.

The Palace,
Valletta,
7th July, 1908.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship the accompanying report, which has been prepared by the Lieutenant-Governor and Chief Secretary to Government, in anticipation of the publication of the Malta Blue Book for the year 1907–8.

I have, &c.,

H. F. GRANT,
Governor.

The Right Honourable
The Earl of Crewe, K.G.,
&c., &c., &c.

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REPORT ON THE MALTA BLUE BOOK FOR THE YEAR, 1907-8.

Lieutenant-Governor's Office,

Malta.

26th June, 1908.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to submit the following report on the Blue Book for the year 1907-8 :—

I.—FINANCIAL.

(A.) GENERAL REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

Revenue.

1. The revenue for the year 1907-8 was £438,348, and the expenditure £454,669, showing an excess of expenditure over revenue of £16,321. As the surplus brought forward from the previous year was £140,784, the net surplus remaining at the close of the financial year was £124,463.

Revenue, Estimated and Actual.

2. The estimated revenue for the year under review was £449,256, and the actual revenue £438,348; the receipts, therefore, fell short of the estimate by £10,908.

There were excesses under five heads, viz., Licences, Court Fines, &c., Stamp Duties, Fees of Court, Miscellaneous Receipts, and Land Sales, amounting to £2,412, and deficits under the remaining heads amounting to £13,320, the net deficit being as stated above.

3. The only important excesses were under Stamp Duties (£466) and Fees of Court (£1,372); for the former excess no special reason can be given, while the excess under Fees of Court is attributable mainly to an unforeseen increase in the number of acts filed, and in the amount of fees levied in the higher Courts.

4. The heads of revenue which show considerable deficits are the following: (*a*) Customs (£3,012), (*b*) Post Office (£2,272), (*c*) Water Service (£2,522), (*d*) Rents (£2,508), and (*e*) Interest (£1,180).

The reason, in each case, why the estimate was not realised is given below :—

(*a*) Unforeseen decrease in the importation of flour, beer, spirits, petroleum, tobacco, and other dutiable articles, due to the causes indicated in paragraph 29 of this report.

(*b*) Falling-off in the sale of stamps due mainly to a reduction in the rate of postage for letters, and a shrinkage in the business of the Parcel Post Branch, the reason for which is given in paragraph 152 of this report.

(*c*) Decrease in the consumption of water at the Breakwater Works.

(*d*) A considerable amount of rents were not collected within the year.

(*e*) Withdrawal of the amount placed on fixed deposit in the Anglo-Egyptian Bank, on which interest was paid by the bank, and withdrawals of deposits from the Savings Bank, which had to be met by the sale of Government securities.

Revenue for 1906–7 *and* 1907–8 *compared.*

5. The revenue for 1907–8 fell short of that of the previous year by £75,246. This large shrinkage in revenue is, however, to a great extent only apparent, as in 1906–7 the balances standing to the credit of the Immovable Property Account and other funds, amounting in the aggregate to £61,311, were transferred to revenue. The actual falling-off in the revenue from ordinary sources is, therefore, only £13,935.

Increases.

6. The most important increases were under Fees of Court (£1,106) and Interest (£1,567). The reason for the increase under the former head is given in paragraph 3, and the increase under Interest is accounted for by an expansion in the profit of the Savings Bank, which is apparent rather than real. Formerly, the Savings Bank was credited with interest at the rate of only 2½ per cent. on its investments, while now the full rate of interest received by the Government is credited to the Bank. This makes the profit of the Savings Bank appear larger, but the amount paid in interest under head I. on the expenditure side is also larger, and the net result is the same as before.

Decreases.

7. The principal decreases are under (*a*) Customs and Port Department (£11,004), (*b*) Fees of Office and Reimbursements (£1,824), (*c*) Water Supply (£1,143), (*d*) Electric Lighting (£1,347), (*e*) Rents (£1,016), (*f*) Miscellaneous Receipts

(£11,691), and (*g*) Land Sales (£50,268). They are due, principally, to the following causes :—

(*a*) More wheat and less flour was imported than in 1906-7; there was an increase in the output of wine made in Malta, and of beer brewed locally ; there was also a falling-off in the importation of petroleum, tobacco, and other dutiable articles.

(*b*) A falling-off in the amount of fees paid for the slaughter of cattle at the abattoir, and a decrease in the number of paying patients treated in the hospitals ; a portion of the military contribution towards the maintenance of the drainage system, for the year 1905-6, was paid in 1906-7, while the contribution paid by the War Department in 1907-8 in respect of this service was less than formerly, owing to the abolition of the Drainage Maintenance Sinking Fund. A contribution was also received in 1906-7 towards the upkeep of certain roads used by the military authorities.

(*c*) Less water was consumed on the naval works in progress, which are now approaching completion, while the amount due to the local Government for water supplied to the War Department during January, February, and March, 1908, had not been paid at the close of the financial year.

(*d*) Less current was required for street-lighting owing to the adoption of an improved type of glow lamp which consumes 28 per cent. less current than other lamps.

(*e*) Rents remained unpaid.

(*f*) Transfer to revenue in 1906-7 of the Railway and Electric Lighting Reserve Funds, the Electric Lighting Renewal and Extension Fund, and the Drainage Tools Sinking Fund.

(*g*) Transfer to revenue, in 1906-7, of the amount standing to the credit of the Immovable Property Account.

Revenue for the last Five Years.

8. The following table gives the revenue collected during the last five years :—

Year.	Revenue.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£
1903–4	464,591	—	—
1904–5	467,835	3,244	—
1905–6	467,240	—	595
1906–7	513,594	46,354(*a*)	—
1907–8	438,348	—	75,346(*a*)

(*a*) *See* paragraph 5.

Expenditure.

9. The total expenditure for 1907–8 amounted to £464,669, and was made up as follows :-

	£	£
Establishments :—		
Personal emoluments	164,851	
Other charges	126,064	
		290,915
Interest, pensions, military expenditure, and miscellaneous services		78,316
Public works (including special expenditure) ...		95,438
Total		£464,669

Expenditure, Estimated and Actual.

10. The actual expenditure fell short of the estimate by £33,528, and exceeded the expenditure of the previous year by £7,820.

11. The only excess of any importance was under Charitable Institutions, £811, due mainly to the fact that, although the total number of persons relieved or maintained in 1907–8 was less than in the previous year, there was an increase of 64 in the daily average number of inmates in the Malta institutions, the reason being that in a good many cases the duration of the treatment was above the average. There was also an unforeseen rise in the cost of provisions.

12. The principal savings were under :—

	£
(*a*) Customs and Port Department	813
(*b*) Railway Department	1,680
(*c*) Police	2,848
(*d*) Public Health Department	855
(*e*) Public Instruction	1,302
(*f*) Special Expenditure	6,622
(*g*) Miscellaneous Services	5,580
(*h*) Public Works Department	1,980
(*i*) Water Works and Electric Lighting Department	1,210
(*j*) Public Works	9,197

The amounts shown at (*f*) and (*j*) have not, however, been entirely saved, as £3,820 has been re-voted, under "Public Works," since the closing of the financial year.

Expenditure for 1906–7 *and* 1907–8 *compared.*

13. The expenditure in 1907–8 was £454,669, as compared with £446,849 in the previous year, showing an increase of £7,820 in the year under review.

Increases.

14. The principal increases were under the following heads:—

"Charges on account of interest and burthens," £3,815—due mainly to payment to the savings bank of the full amount of interest received on investments, as explained in paragraph 6, and to the payment of interest on funds invested in the "Massa Frumentaria," which was not claimed in the previous year.

"Customs and Port Department," £16,095. This increase is partly apparent, the expenditure of the Marine Police having been transferred to this head from head XIII., Police. The increase is also partly due to two non-recurring services paid for during the year, viz., the purchase of a boiler (£549), and of the lanterns for the lighthouses to be erected on the arms of the breakwater (£623).

"Charitable Institutions," £3,578—due to periodical and other increments of salaries, to an unforeseen rise in the contract prices of provisions, &c.; to an increase in the expenditure on transport, drugs, &c.; to an increase in the number of children given out to nurse; and to an increase in the expenditure on the Hospital for Infectious Diseases at Malta, owing to an outbreak of small-pox.

Decreases.

15. The principal decreases were under the following heads:—

"Railway Department," £1,686—due to the fact that interest on the capital outlay (which has now been discontinued) was paid during the first six months of the previous year, and that the expenditure on the permanent way and on rolling stock was less than in 1906–7.

"Police," £15,230—due mainly to the transfer of the Marine Police Branch to head VII., already referred to above.

"Special Expenditure," £5,868—due to non-completion of certain works, and to a decline in the market value of labour.

Public Works.

16. The expenditure on public works was as follows:—

	£
(*a*) Annually Recurrent Expenditure	51,581
(*b*) Special Services (including re-votes)	13,995
(*c*) Special Expenditure	29,778
	£95,354

(B.) Changes in Taxation.

17. There were no changes in taxation during the year.

(C.) Assets and Liabilities.

18. The assets and liabilities of the Government on the 31st March, 1908, as compared with those of 1906-7, were as follows:—

Year.	Assets.	Liabilities.	Surplus.
	£	£	£
1906-7	855,217	714,433	140,784
1907-8	801,035	676,572	124,463
Decrease	50,182	37,861	16,321

The decrease in the assets is due chiefly to withdrawals from the Treasury to meet repayments of deposits in the Savings Bank, and to withdrawals of Court deposits; and the decrease in the liabilities is attributable to withdrawals of Savings Bank and Court deposits, while the decrease in the surplus is due to the excess of expenditure over revenue referred to in paragraph 1.

(D.) Public Debt.

19. Strictly speaking, there is no public debt in Malta. Interest at the rate of 2½ per cent. is, however, paid by the Treasury on funds invested in the Massa Frumentaria. The amount of interest paid in 1907-8 was £2,008, as compared with £1,782 in 1906-7, the increase being due to the payment during the year of interest which remained unclaimed in previous years.

(E.) Currency.

20. Roughly calculated, the total amount of British coin in circulation on the 31st March, 1908, was £420,000, made up of £375,000 in sovereigns, £15,000 in half-sovereigns, and £30,000 in silver and bronze.

Note Circulation.

21. The amount of notes put in circulation by the local banks is not known, no statutory control being exercised on banking establishments in Malta.

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

(A.) Imports and Exports.

Imports.

22. The total value of the dutiable goods imported during the past two years was as follows:

	£
1906–7	7,096,800
1907–8	6,983,589
Decrease ...	£113,211

23. The values of goods imported for local consumption, and of goods re-exported in the same bottoms, were as follows:—

——	1906–7.	1907–8.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Imported for local consumption.	1,219,819	1,236,530	16,711	—
Re-exported in same bottoms	5,876,981	5,747,059	—	129,922
Total...	7,096,800	6,983,589	16,711	129,922

24. The principal decreases were in wheat, barley, saggina, cotton-oil, potatoes, pulse, seeds, wine, and petroleum.

25. The following table gives the values of the imports in each of the five years preceding 1907-8, and the average value for that period compared with that of the imports in the year under review:—

Year.	United Kingdom.	British Possessions.	H.M. Ships.	Foreign Countries.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£
1902–3	268,040	297,583	536	5,996,369	6,562,798
1903–4	292,483	355,293	457	6,509,846	7,158,079
1904–5	251,024	2,478,761	957	7,005,117	9,735,859
1905–6	221,988	977,238	726	7,188,540	8,388,492
1906–7	218,461	385,961	249	6,492,129	7,096,800
Average of 5 years	250,399	899,021	585	6,638,400	7,788,406
1907–8	269,243	624,776	382	6,089,188	6,983,589
Above Average ...	18,844	—	—	—	—
Below Average ...	—	274,245	203	549,212	804,817

The principal imports from the United Kingdom were :—

Beer, £75,757 ; manufactured grain, £96,212 ; cotton-seed oil, £6,446 ; potatoes, £23,713 ; spirits, £20,366 ; superior wines, £3,445 ; sugar, £14,800 ; and tobacco, £24,190.

From British Possessions :—

Frozen and preserved beef and mutton, £22,087 ; wheat, £550,922, and barley, £51,600.

From foreign countries :—

Bullocks, £153,183 ; horses, £5,030 ; mules, £1,860 ; wheat, £4,409,599 ; Indian corn, £329,166 ; barley, £477,501 ; saggina, £13,193, inferior grain, £125,041 ; manufactured grain, £59,359 ; olive oil, £53,628 ; cotton-seed oil, £11,467 ; potatoes, £5,965 ; pulse, £95,912 ; seeds, £32,058 ; spirits, £10,136 ; wine, £95,586 ; petroleum, £40,084 ; sugar, £136,192 ; and tobacco, £29,205.

Imports for Local Consumption.

26. The total value of goods imported for local consumption in 1907-8 was £1,236,530, made up as follows :—

	£
Imported from the United Kingdom	269,243
Imported from British possessions	22,362
Imported from foreign countries...	944,543
Landed from His Majesty's ships	382
Total	£1,236,530

27. The following table shows the dutiable articles imported for local consumption in 1907-8, and the amount of duty collected on each article, as compared with the amount received in the previous year :—

——	1906-7.	1907-8.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Barley	548	319	—	229
Beer	25,244	24,601	—	643
Bullocks	12,423	12,831	408	—
Horses	364	359	—	5
Imported meat	3,578	3,601	23	—
Indian corn	62	42	—	20
Inferior grain	35	48	13	—
Malt	203	273	70	—
Manufactured grain ...	38,755	34,379	—	4,376
Mules	166	134	—	32
Oil	3,096	2,921	—	175
Carried forward ...	84,474	79,508	514	5,480

—	1906–7.	1907–8.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Brought forward ...	84,474	79,508	514	5,480
Petroleum	6,917	5,807	—	1,110
Potatoes	3,109	2,338	—	771
Pulse	5,841	4,858	—	983
Refuse grain	6	3	—	3
Refuse manufactured grain	41	27	—	14
Saggina	2,944	2,312	—	187
Seeds	2,470	1,965	—	505
Sheep	97	84	—	13
Spirits	32,098	31,084	—	1,014
Sugar	5,999	6,062	63	—
Tobacco	12,376	11,672	—	704
Vinegar	112	106	—	6
Wheat	53,042	55,086	2,044	—
Wine...	48,914	46,076	—	2,835
Total	257,992	246,988	2,621	13,625

Causes of Increases and Decreases.

28. The only increases of any importance were the following :—

Bullocks (£408), due to the fact that, owing to a rise in the price of foodstuffs, animals imported were slaughtered without being fattened in Malta, and there was consequently an increase in the number imported.

Wheat (£2,044), attributable to high prices of flour ruling abroad, owing to which less flour and more wheat was imported than in the previous year.

29. The principal decreases were the following :—

Beer (£643), due mainly to increased consumption of beer brewed locally, which caused a corresponding increase in the importation of malt. It is also possible that less liquor is being consumed by the working classes than was the case during the prosperous years, when the demand for labour was greater than the supply.

Manufactured grain (£4,376); this is partly compensated by the increase under wheat, referred to above.

Exports.

30. The total value of dutiable goods exported in the past two years (exclusive of local produce) was as follows :—

	£
1906–7	6,250,787
1907–8	5,913,538
Decrease	£337,249

31. The following table gives the exports for the past five years :—

Year.	United Kingdom.	British Possessions.	H.M. Ships.	Foreign Countries.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£
1903–4	2,259,810	508,164	18,990	3,358,919	6,145,883
1904–5	3,240,400	534,015	18,932	4,650,677	8,444,024
1905–6	2,314,079	221,924	15,209	4,605,636	7,156,848
1906–7	1,743,241	324,677	11,313	4,171,556	6,250,787
1907–8	1,484,456	250,263	17,387	4,161,432	5,913,538

32. The principal exports to the United Kingdom were :—

Wheat, £1,218,399 ; barley, £141,687 ; inferior grain, £48,206 ; and Indian corn, £75,326, all of which proceeded in the same bottoms.

To British Possessions :—

Wheat, £150,142 ; Indian corn, £58,148 ; barley, £41,466. These goods also proceeded in the same bottoms.

To foreign countries :—

Wheat, £3,415,425 ; Indian corn, £191,664 ; barley, £341,514 ; inferior grain, £7,112 ; pulse, £5,733 ; olive oil, £20,836 ; potatoes, £1,053 ; spirits, £3,337 ; wine, £4,365 ; sugar, £77,528 ; and tobacco, £12,449.

Most of the wheat, Indian corn, barley, inferior grain, and pulse proceeded in the same bottoms.

Local Produce.

33. The exports of local produce in the past two years, as reported by shipping agents, were as follows :—

——	1906–7.	1907–8.
	Cantars. Cwts.	Cantars. Cwts.
Cheese...	834 = 1,303	1,224 = 1,913
Potatoes	155,066 = 242,197	184,512 = 288,300
Cummin-seed...	929 = 1,295	2,568 = 4,013
Vegetables	9,865 = 15,414	13,869 = 21,670
Onions...	6,015 = 9,398	9,532 = 14,894
	Dozen.	Dozen.
Oranges	44,000	35,500
	Number.	Number.
Goats and sheep	764	778
	Cantars. Cwts.	Cantars. Cwts.
Cotton	372 = 581	465 = 727

—		1906–7.	1907–8.
Cotton goods ...		Canne.* 450	Canne.* 350
		Bales. 258	Bales. 304
Stone		Tons in bulk. 1,100	Tons in bulk. 800
		Slabs and blocks. 49,213	Slabs and blocks. 57,292

* 1 Canna (or Cane) = 6 feet 10½ inches.

(B.) Fisheries.

34. It is estimated that the large fish caught in Maltese waters (viz., tunny, white tunny, sword-fish, dolphin, bonitoes, &c.) amounted to 634 cantars, or about 49 tons, and that about the same quantity was imported from abroad during the year.

(C.) Agricultural Industries, &c.

Area of Land under Cultivation.

35. The number of acres of land under cultivation in the two islands was 40,983, while the area of uncultivated land at the end of 1907–8 was estimated at 4,854 acres, against 4,863 acres in the previous year.

Number of Holdings.

36. The number of agricultural holdings was practically the same as in 1906–7, viz., about 10,000, with an average acreage of four acres per holding.

Crops.

37. Wheat, barley, and "Mischiato" (a mixture of both) were grown on 13,478 acres, as against 13,513 acres in 1906–7.

38. The total yield of cereals in the past two years was as follows :—

Year.	Wheat.	Barley.	Mischiato.	Total.
	Qrs.	Qrs.	Qrs.	Qrs.
1906–7	20,288	8,963	6,137	35,388
1907–8	20,501	8,785	7,321	36,607
Total ...	40,789	17,748	13,458	71,995

Beans and other Pulse.

39. Beans and other pulse were grown on 1,954 acres, as against 1,816 acres in 1906–7, an advance of 138 acres.

Potatoes.

40. Potatoes were planted on 3,860 acres, as against 3,890 acres in the previous year, and, climatic conditions having been unusually favourable, the total yield of the spring and winter crops was 424,720 cwts., as compared with 202,200 cwts. in 1906–7, an advance of over 100 per cent. This year's crop was, therefore, extraordinarily abundant, and the best on record in the past 20 years.

41. There was a decrease of 8,886 cwts. in the importation of potatoes in the year under review. The quantity imported was 87,664 cwts., of which 63,792 cwts. were used as seed, 14,200 cwts. were consumed locally, and 9,672 cwts. were re-exported. Of the potatoes that were used as seed, 57,534 cwts. were imported from the United Kingdom, 5,106 cwts. from Austria, and 1,152 cwts. from Italy, France, and other countries.

Onions.

42. Onions were planted on 665 acres, as against 582 acres in 1906–7, and the total yield for the year is estimated at 2,043 tons, against 2,156 tons in 1906–7.

Cummin Seed.

43. The area planted with cummin seed was 1,323 acres, and the produce obtained 2,375 cwts., as against 1,367 acres and 2,597 cwts. respectively in the previous year.

Oranges and other Fruit.

44. The total quantity of oranges, lemons, and mandarines gathered is estimated at 194,648 dozen, against 198,396 dozen in the previous year.

Cotton.

45. The acreage of land under cotton shows a slight increase, the figures for the past two years being 670 acres (with a produce of 166,534 lbs. of lint) in 1906–7, as compared with 871 acres (with a produce of 211,523 lbs. of lint) in the year under review. 116,079 lbs. of lint (valued at £2,628) were exported, of which 111,655 lbs. were sent to the United Kingdom, and 4,424 lbs. to other countries. The average yield was 245 lbs. per acre, and the average price obtained varied from 5½*d.* to 7*d.* per lb., which is not sufficient to induce any extensive cultivation of cotton in these islands.

Forage.

46. The aggregate acreage of land under clover, barley (cut in the green stage), vetches, &c., was 11,790 acres, as against 12,097 acres in 1906 7, and the total yield for the year is

estimated at 425,356 loads of 10 bundles each, as against 489,894 loads in the previous year, showing a net decrease of 64,538 loads.

Live-Stock.

47. The live-stock in the colony during the past two years was as follows:—

	1906–7.	1907–8.
Asses	3,905	3,764
Goats	19,231	20,920
Horned cattle	6,022	7,060
Horses	3,669	3,835
Mules	3,302	3,456
Pigs	5,132	5,724
Sheep	19,901	14,063
Total	61,162	58,822

Botanic Gardens.

48. The total expenditure on plants, seeds, manure, and garden requisites during the year was £151. A large number of orchids, representing rare and valuable specimens, were added to the collection of exotics kept in the greenhouse.

The autumn and spring Shows of the Malta Horticultural Society (which receives a subsidy of £30 per annum from the Government) were held in the Gardens.

Government Experimental Farm.

49. Various experiments were made during the year with wheat and potatoes grown from British and foreign seed, and with samples of asparagus, cabbages, lettuce, beans, carrots, parsley, radishes, and spinach, which were all subjected to scientific treatment. The results were satisfactory.

Seeds and roots of plants are distributed free of charge, and no pains are spared to induce growers to improve the quality of their products, and not to restrict their efforts to the cultivation of indigenous varieties. It must be confessed, however, that little progress has so far been made in this direction, as the native grower is conservative in his ideas, and slow to avail himself of the facilities that have been placed within his reach by the establishment of the experimental farm.

(D.) Land Grants, &c.

50. 11,626 square canes of Crown lands (equal to 12·6 acres) were alienated during the year, at an average price of £53 per acre. (The square cane is equal to 47·26 square feet.)

51. The number of leases issued by the Government was 310.

(E.) Shipping.

52. The number and tonnage of the steamers and sailing vessels which entered and cleared during the past two years are as follows:—

Year.	Steamers.				Sailing vessels.				Total.	
	Entered.		Cleared.		Entered.		Cleared.			
	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.
1906–7 ..	2,334	3,596,318	2,337	3,601,552	1,010	49,588	1,001	50,366	6,682	7,297,824
1907–8 ..	2,315	3,738,694	2,309	3,728,829	939	53,801	915	45,439	6,478	7,566,763
Increase	—	142,376	—	127,277	—	4,213	—	—	—	268,939
Decrease	19	—	28	—	71	—	86	4,927	204	—

Nationality of Steamship Tonnage.

British Ships.

53. The number of British ships which called at Malta during the year was 1,148, as against 1,187 in 1906–7; and their tonnage was 2,490,767, as against 2,430,588, giving a decrease of 39 in ships, and an increase of 60,179 in tonnage.

Foreign Ships.

54. The number of foreign ships was 1,167 (with a tonnage of 1,247,927), as against 1,147 ships (with a tonnage of 1,165,730). There was, therefore, an increase of 20 in foreign ships, and of 82,197 in tonnage.

55. The following table shows the nationality of foreign steamers which called at Malta during 1907–8:—

	No. of ships.	Tonnage.
Austrian	488	344,805
Belgian	39	60,772
Danish	6	5,713
French	56	54,110
German	257	391,767
Greek	23	27,166
Dutch	75	78,345
Italian	192	254,915
Norwegian...	12	17,796
Russian	4	4,030
Spanish	1	2,320
Swedish	2	3,553
Turkish	12	2,635
Total	1,167	1,247,927

56. The following table gives the tonnage of British and foreign shipping which entered and cleared with cargoes in 1907–8, as distinguished from vessels in ballast, compared with the figures for 1906–7 :—

—	1906–7.			1907–8.		
	British.	Foreign.	Total.	British.	Foreign.	Total.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
Entered ...	2,383,097	1,134,825	3,517,922	2,429,312	1,180 397	3,609,709
Cleared ...	2,260,151	1,102,941	3,363,092	2,321,660	1,063,521	3,385,181
Total ...	4,643,248	2,237,766	6,881,014	4,750,972	2,243,918	6,994,890

There was, therefore, an increase of 107,724 tons in British, and of 6,152 tons in foreign, shipping, making a total increase of 113,876 tons.

57. The total revenue collected by the Government from tonnage dues was £6,151, as against £6,243, showing a decrease of £92 in the year under review.

58. The total shipping entered and cleared for the last five years was as follows :—

Year.	Entered.		Cleared.	
	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.
1903–4	3,625	3,594,274	3,607	3,590,994
1904–5	3,803	3,986,502	3,829	3,980,516
1905–6	3,524	3,718,168	3,511	3,718,349
1906–7	3,344	3,645,906	3,338	3,651,918
1907–8	3,254	3,792,495	3,224	3,774,268

III.—EDUCATION.

(A.) Primary Education.

Elementary Schools.

Day Schools.

59. As in the previous year, the number of day-schools in Malta and Gozo in 1907–8 was 99, as shown below :—

	Malta.	Gozo.	Total.
Boys	29	9	38
Girls	30	9	39
Infants	6	1	7
Drawing (boys)	5	—	5
„ (girls)	5	—	5
Wood-carving	4	—	4
Sunday school (Secular instruction)	1	—	1
Total	80	19	99

Night Schools.

60. The number of night-schools in 1907–8 was also the same as in the previous year, viz., 38 (33 in Malta and five in Gozo.)

School Accommodation.

61. The schools at Zeitun and Zabbar were completed in March last, but are not yet occupied, and a new wing to the Floriana School was completed and taken over in June, 1907, while satisfactory progress was made with the new school at Sliema.

62. The number of children of school age registered in the books as seeking admission on the 1st March, 1908, but who could not be admitted for want of accommodation, was 4,060; it is anticipated that 1,470 will be admitted by the end of June, leaving 2,590 children still unprovided for, as compared with 3,759 in the previous year.

Number of Admissions.

63. The number of children admitted to the day schools during the year was 6,799, and the number of those who left school was 5,256, as compared with 7,094 and 5,175 respectively in 1906-7, while the number of pupils admitted to the night schools was 2,734, as against 3,016 in the previous year.

64. Of the pupils who left school, 35 (17 boys and 18 girls) were appointed monitors and monitresses in the Government Elementary Schools; 22 passed into the Lyceum; 32 were successful at the competitive examinations held during the year for apprenticeships in H.M. Dockyard; 19 were admitted to the Archiepiscopal Seminary in Malta, and 8 to the Bishop's Seminary in Gozo, and 2 obtained employment in the Public Works Department.

65. The number who left school during the year before reaching Standard III. was 2,860, as against 2,808 in 1906–7.

Attendance.

66. The attendance in the day schools on the 1st September, 1907, was 18,166, as against 17,010 on the same date in the previous year.

67. The night schools were attended by 2,179 pupils at the beginning of the scholastic year (1st October, 1907), as against 2,127 on the corresponding date in 1906.

68. The total enrolment of pupils in the day and night schools at the beginning of the scholastic year was 19,905, as against 19,137 in 1906.

69. The average annual enrolment was 17,861, and the average annual attendance 14,705, as against 17,259 and 14,234 respectively in 1906–7.

70. The percentage of attendance to enrolment was 82·3, as against 82·5 in 1906–7.

71. The highest enrolment was 21,095, and the lowest 14,854, as against 20,503 and 14,208 in the previous year.

Selection of Language of Colloquial Instruction on Admission to Infant Schools, and in Standards I., II., and III.

72. Out of 5,744 parents or guardians who were invited to select the language of colloquial instruction for their children or wards, on their being admitted to the schools, or on their being promoted to Standards I. and II., 94·8 per cent. chose English, and 5·2 per cent. chose Italian, as against 93·6 per cent. for English, and 6·4 per cent. for Italian in 1906–7.

73. In the case of admissions or promotions to Standard III., out of 3,159 parents or guardians who selected the secondary language of instruction for their children or wards, 98·4 per cent. chose English, and 1·6 per cent. Italian, as compared with 97·8 per cent. for English, and 2·2 per cent. for Italian in the previous year.

Choice of Language of Examination in the Higher Standards.

74. The number of parents or guardians of pupils attending the higher standards who made a choice of the language in which they desired their children to be examined was 2,104, as against 1,988 in 1906–7. Of these, 1,494 or 71 per cent. selected English only, 588 or 28 per cent. chose English and Italian, and 22 or 1 per cent. selected Italian only. The corresponding percentages in the previous year were 68·6, 29·7, and 1·7 respectively.

Annual Examinations.

75. The number of pupils borne on the rolls was 14,838, as against 13,904 in 1906–7. The number individually examined was 14,006, of whom 11,588 or 82·7 per cent. obtained passes,

with an average percentage of 78·5 marks, as against 13,248 pupils examined in 1906–7, of whom 10,875 or 82·1 per cent. had passes with an average percentage of 75·9 marks.

Teachers.

76. The teaching staff was the same as in 1906–7, viz. :—

Head masters	40
Head mistresses	49
Assistant teachers (males)...	220
Monitors	30
Assistant teachers (females)	290
Monitresses	86
Teachers of drawing, dress-cutting, lace-making, &c.	10
Total	725

77. Two male students were sent to St. Mary's College, Hammersmith, for training. No female students were sent to England during the year. A satisfactory report was received on the first year's work of the female student who was sent to the Training College, St. Charles Square, London, in 1906–7.

78. Of the present staff, 19 masters and 20 mistresses were trained in England.

79. A special preparatory training class for young teachers desirous of proceeding to England for training, was again started in December last, and was attended by seven male and five female teachers.

Cost of Schools.

80. The total cost of the Elementary Schools was £26,375, as against £25,593 in 1906–7. Of the expenditure in 1907–8, £22,340 was for personal emoluments and £3,975 for other charges, as against £21,853 and £3,740, respectively, in the previous year.

Average Cost per Pupil.

81. The average cost per pupil, calculated on the number of pupils on the rolls at the beginning of the scholastic year, was 26*s.* 6*d.*; calculated on the average annual enrolment, 29*s.* 6*d.*; and calculated on the average annual attendance, 35*s.* 10½*d.*, as against 26*s.* 9*d.*, 29*s.* 8*d.*, and 36*s.*, respectively, in 1906–7.

(B.) Secondary Education.

Secondary School for Girls, Valletta.

82. The average daily attendance in this school to the end of the scholastic year (30th September, 1907) was 218, including 44 little boys, as against 207, including 42 boys, in 1905–6.

Secondary School for Boys, Gozo.

83. The average attendance was 56, as against 46 in the previous year, and the percentage of attendance was 92, as against 93 in 1905–6.

The Lyceum, Valletta.

84. The average number of students borne on the registers was 593, as against 621 in 1905–6, showing a decrease of 28, due to a falling off in the attendance in the classes for optional subjects.

85. The daily average attendance and the percentage of attendance were as follows :—

Scholastic Year.

1905–6.			1906–7.		
Average No. of students on register.	Average daily attendance.	Average percentage of attendance.	Average No. of students on register.	Average daily attendance.	Average percentage of attendance.
621	503	81	593	500	84

86. The number of boys admitted in 1906–7 was 103, and the number of candidates 164, as against the same number of admissions, out of 201 candidates, in the previous year.

87. At the annual examinations held in July, 381 students were examined in English and 368 in Italian, and the number of passes in English was 345 or 91 per cent., and in Italian 278 or 77 per cent.

The University, Valletta.

88. The average number of students on the register of the University was 242, against 146 in the previous year, showing an increase of 96, due to the facts that a new academical course began in 1906–7, when the number of students was at a maximum, and that the students of engineering and architecture, formerly returned under the Lyceum, were transferred to the University.

Matriculation Examination.

89. Forty-four candidates entered for the Matriculation Examination held in 1907. Of these 26 were successful.

Average Cost per Student.

90. The average cost per student was as follows :—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Secondary School (Girls)	2	5	8
„ „ (Boys)	6	8	4
Lyceum	6	0	6
University	20	4	2

91. The average fees paid by students in the different institutions are as follows :—

	£	*s.*	d.
Secondary School (Girls)	1	9	3
„ „ (Boys)	Nil.		
Lyceum	0	11	10
University	2	12	9

These figures show that secondary education is provided by the Government at a very moderate rate, especially in the University, in which the degrees of M.D. and LL.D. and other degrees may be obtained after a seven years' course at a total cost of about £16.

IV.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

(A.) Hospitals, &c.

92. The total number of persons relieved or maintained in the charitable institutions of the two islands was 6,461, as against 6,509 in 1906–7. In addition to these 104,746 persons were attended by the District Medical Officers at the Government Dispensaries or at their own home, as against 97,604 in the previous year; and pecuniary assistance amounting to £3,930 was given to 2,761 persons, as against £3,440 given to 2,329 persons in 1906–7.

93. The total cost of the institutions (exclusive of works) was £66,660 as compared with £58,986 in the previous year.

Industrial School.

94. The number of boys kept at the Industrial School was 40; of these, 30 were maintained by the Government at a cost of 1*s.* per diem each, and 10 by the Salesian Society which is in charge of the Institution.

The total cost to the Government of the Industrial School (including salaries, maintenance of pupils, outfits, tools, &c.) was £837, as compared with £896 in 1906–7.

Subsidized Institutions.

95. The private institutions which received pecuniary assistance from the Government during the year were :—

The Crêche, the Casa di San Giuseppe at Hamrun, and the Convent of the Good Shepherd at Casal Balzan, and the average number of inmates in each was 115 children, 43 boys, and 122 orphan girls and penitent women, respectively.

(B.) Savings Bank.

96. The number of depositors on the 31st March, 1908, was 8,135, and the amount standing to their credit was £540,401, of which £533,526 was invested in Imperial and other British securities.

97. The deposits made during the year amounted to £111,944, and the withdrawals to £150,198, as against £129,051 and £158,728, respectively, in 1906–7.

98. The expenses of management and the interest credited to depositors amounted to £9,966, while the revenue derived from interest and invested funds, unappropriated deposits, and sale of pass-books was £17,318, leaving a net profit of £7,352.

V.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

(A.) Police.

Strength.

99. The nominal strength of the force on the 31st March, 1908, was 33 officers and 430 non-commissioned officers and men, and the actual strength was 31 officers and 422 non-commissioned officers and men.

Liquor Traffic.

100. The number of new licences issued during the year was 166, as against 188 in the previous year, while 85 licences were surrendered, and four forfeited for breaches of the regulations.

101. The total amount collected by the Government in respect of licences for the sale of wines and spirits was £3,422, against £3,374 collected in 1906–7.

Firearms.

102. Two thousand four hundred and forty-two persons took out licences to carry firearms for sporting purposes, as compared with 2,361 in the previous year, and the fees levied amounted to £1,221, as against £1,181 in 1906–7.

Licensed Vehicles.

103. The total number of vehicles licensed by the police was 1,305, as against 1,278 in the previous year.

Aliens.

104. The number of security bonds signed under the Aliens Law was 127, against 265 in 1906-7, and the number of aliens expelled under that law was 14, as against 60 in the previous year.

(B.) Prisons.

105. The total number of persons imprisoned in 1907-8 is given in the following table :—

—	Remaining on 1st April, 1907.	Admitted during 1907-8.	Total.	Discharged.	Died.	Remaining on 31st March, 1908.
Malta—						
Criminal prisoners ...	150	5,572	5,722	5,522	2	198
Debtors	—	8	8	6	—	2
Gozo—						
Criminal prisoners ...	1	836	837	821	—	16
Debtors	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	151	6,416	6,567	6,349	2	216

106. The number of persons admitted during the year was 6,416, as against 5,556 in 1906-7, as shown below :—

—	1906-7.			1907-8.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Malta—						
From Local Courts	4,309	302	4,611	5,227	333	5,560
„ Courts Martial	31	—	31	19	—	19
„ Consular Courts ...	6	—	6	1	—	1
Gozo—						
From Local Courts	869	39	908	805	31	836
Total	5,215	341	5,556	6,052	364	6,416

Health of Prisoners.

107. The general health of the prisoners was good. The total number of admissions into hospital during the year was 24, and the daily average on the sick-list was 17·95, as against 30 and 18, respectively, 1906–7. There were two deaths, due to heart disease.

Discipline.

108. The number of prison offences was 513, as against 417 in 1906–7, and the punishments inflicted were as follows :—

—	1906–7.	1907–8.
Admonition	145	202
Solitary confinement on ordinary diet	66	79
Do. do. on bread and water ...	197	217
Reduction in class...	8	14
Loss of good conduct stripes	1	—
Corporal punishment	—	1
Total	417	513

109. The increase in the number of prison offences is attributable to stricter enforcement of discipline, and to the fact that more prisoners were admitted than in 1906–7.

Employment.

110. As in previous years, the prisoners were employed as tailors, mat and broom makers, joiners, masons, painters, plasterers, shoemakers, stainers, tinmen, plumbers, and cooks, and in cultivating the prison lands, pumping water, and attending sick prisoners.

Revenue.

111. The receipts of the prisons were as follows :—

	£
Maintenance of Consular and Naval convicts ...	168
Sale of prison manufactures	160
Sale of produce of lands	133
Total	£461

Expenditure.

112. The total cost of the prisons for the year 1907–8 was £4,003, as compared with £3,827 in the previous year, distributed as follows :—

	£
Corradino prison	3,857
Gozo prison	146
Total	£4,003

(C.) Criminal Statistics.

113. Roughly classified, the offences reported to the police in the past two years were as follows :—

—	1906–7.	1907–8.	Increase.
Offences against the person	3,696	5,501	1,805
Offences against the good order of families.	111	122	11
Offences against property	1,559	2,266	707
Other offences	25,552	26,650	1,098
Total	30,918	34,539	3,621

114. The increase in the number of offences reported is probably due to greater vigilance on the part of the police, and to the fact that the force was practically up to strength in 1907–8, while there were a good many vacancies in the previous year.

115. The total number of offences dealt with by the Courts of Malta and Gozo was 23,239, made up as follows :—

—	Malta.	Gozo.	Total.
Crimes	599	84	683
Contraventions	20,104	2,452	22,556
Total	20,703	2,536	23,239

116. The number of offences not dealt with by the Courts was, therefore, 11,300, or about 32 per cent. of the total number reported.

117. The number of crimes the perpetrators of which were not discovered was 278, or 28 per cent. of the total number reported.

118. The total number of persons summoned before the magistrates was 23,239, as against 22,770 in 1906–7, an increase of 469. They were dealt with as follows :—

Summarily convicted	22,009
Committed for trial	148
Acquitted...	411
Discharged for want of evidence, or in default of prosecution	671
Total	23,239

The punishments inflicted on the persons who were summarily convicted, were as follows :—

Imprisoned	330
Fined	16,916
Fined and imprisoned	12
Bound over	72
Admonished	4,679
Total	22,009

119. The number of persons admonished was 21 per cent., as against 16·5 per cent. in the previous year.

120. There were three cases of alleged wilful homicide, in one of which the jury returned a verdict of "Not guilty," on the ground that the accused had acted under great provocation. The other two are still awaiting trial.

Superior Courts.

121. The total number of persons tried by the Criminal Court during the year was 148, as against 125 in 1906–7, and the results were as stated below :—

	1906–7.	1907–8.
Convicted	82	98
Acquitted	43	50
Total	125	148

122. The crimes of the persons convicted were as follows :—

Wilful homicide (not amounting to murder) ...	2
Manslaughter	1
Attempted murder	3
Offences against the person...	36
Offences against property	27
Offences against the good order of families ...	13
False evidence	1
Miscellaneous offences	15
Total	98

123. Of the 1,586 cases instituted in the Civil Court, First Hall, 714 were for the determination of a point of fact or law, and 872 for the recovery of sums of money amounting in the aggregate to £30,472.

124. In the Commercial Court, 1,326 cases were instituted, of which 248 were for the determination of a point of fact or law, and 1,078 for the recovery of sums of money amounting in the aggregate to £46,541.

125. The business transacted in the Civil Court, Second Hall, was as follows:—

Applications disposed of...	1,927
Secret wills deposited	43
„ „ withdrawn	21
Deposits made	£703 9*s.* 7*d.*

Sales and Transfers of Property.

126. Thirty-three sales of immovable property for sums amounting in the aggregate to £8,647 19*s.* 4*d.*, and 59 sales of movable property for sums amounting in the aggregate to £7,431 8*s.* 8½*d.*, were effected during the year in the Superior Courts.

VI.—VITAL STATISTICS.

(A.) Population.

127. The population on the 1st April, 1908, was estimated at 209,974, as against 206,689 on the same date in the previous year, giving an increase of 3,285.

Births.

128. The total number of births in the two years was as follows:—

	1906–7.	1907–8.
Males	4,050	4,333
Females	3,583	3,976
Total	7,633	8,309

The birth-rate in 1907–8 was 39·57 per mille, against 37·82 per mille in the previous year, and the average birth-rate for the last ten years was 38·67 per mille.

Deaths.

129. The total number of deaths was as follows:—

	1906–7.	1907–8.
Males	2,916	2,530
Females	2,636	2,369
Total	5,552	4,899

130. The death-rate in 1907–8 was 23·09 per mille, as against 25·85 in 1906–7, while the average death-rate for the past ten years was 25·33 per mille. The excess of births over deaths during the year was 3,310.

Marriages.

131. The number of marriages in 1907–8 was 1,220, and in the previous year 1,517.

(B.) Public Health.

132. During the year under review the general state of the public health was good.

Infectious Diseases.

133. The following table shows the number of cases of infectious diseases reported, and the number of deaths from each disease, during the past two years :—

—	1906–7.		1907–8.	
	No. of Cases.	No. of Deaths.	No. of Cases.	No. of Deaths.
Broncho-pneumonia	50	37	46	35
Chicken-pox	77	—	84	—
Continued fever	87	5	6	3
Diphtheria	327	99	201	48
Enteric fever	80	19	86	23
Erysipelas	71	7	81	7
Febrile puerperal diseases	15	5	—	—
Influenza	348	7	114	6
Measles...	5	—	1,931	82
Pneumonia	48	26	61	32
Remittent or Mediterranean fever ...	883	80	520	45
Scarlet fever	3	—	10	1
Small-pox	5	—	107	12
Whooping cough	592	33	131	3
Total	2,591	318	3,378	297

134. It will be noted that, although the total number of cases reported was higher than last year, there was not a proportionate increase in the number of deaths.

135. While the number of cases of enteric fever and erysipelas remained practically stationary, the number of cases of continued fever was insignificant, as compared with that of the previous year, and there was also a considerable abatement in diphtheria, influenza, and whooping cough. There was, however, an outbreak of small-pox, due to the importation of infection from

Tunis, as well as a very serious epidemic of measles for which no special reason can be given. The number of deaths from small-pox was 11 per cent., and the number from measles 4·23 per cent., which cannot be considered abnormally high in either case.

136. For the reasons given in last year's report, the incidence of Mediterranean fever among the civil population continues to be high, whilst, thanks to the strenuous efforts of the naval and military authorities to stamp out the disease, the two services may now be said to be practically immune, the number of cases during the year having been 11 in the Army and 7 in the Navy. As the majority of the civil population still show little disposition to recognise the results of the Mediterranean Fever Commission, or to take heed of its recommendations, a committee has recently been appointed, consisting of official and elected members of the Council of Government, and other gentlemen, to consider what steps can be taken by the Government for the suppression of Mediterranean fever among the general population of these islands, particularly in the direction of eliminating goats which are infected with the disease.

Infant Mortality.

137. The number of deaths which occurred among children under five years of age was 2,690, or 54·9 per cent. of the total number of deaths, as against 2,878, or 51·8 per cent. in 1906–7.

138. For some years past, the excessive mortality among infants has received a good deal of public attention and in 1905 an association was formed, under the title of "Associazione pro Infantia," with the object of diffusing among the lower orders a knowledge of the elementary principles of hygiene, and of the rules which should be observed during pregnancy and suckling, and in the management of the health of children. Although the Association is carrying on an active propaganda, it is doubtful whether its efforts will meet with much success, as all new hygienic methods and ideas are regarded with suspicion by the uneducated classes, which form the large majority of the population.

Vaccination.

139. The total number of vaccinations in the two Islands was 12,141, of which only 135 were unsuccessful.

(C.) Sanitation.

140. The following is a list of the principal drainage works carried out during the year under the General Drainage Scheme :—

Completing the drainage of Hamrun (drained area 33,000 square yards).
Continuing the drainage of Victoria, Gozo.
Completing the Marsa and Marina Drainage.

Extending sewers in the following villages, &c. :—

	Drained area.
Birchircara	28,300 square yards.
Rabato	300 ,,
Sliema	4,100 ,,
St. Julian's	8,400 ,,
Misida	4,700 ,,
Calcara	1,700 ,,
Hamrun	8,000 ,,
Zabbar	140,000 ,,

141. The works carried out during the year under the scheme for flushing the drainage system of Malta with sea water, were the following :—

Constructing a further portion of the road of approach to the Pumping Station at Ghar Lapsi.

Laying the pumping main and the distributing main from Fawara to Rabato.

Excavating the boiler room at the pumping station.

(D.) Climate.

142. The meteorological returns for 1907–8 are given in the following table :—

Month.	Temperature.					Rainfall.		Winds.	
	Solar Maximum.	Shade Maximum.	Shade Minimum.	Mean Daily Range.	Mean Temperature.	No. of inches.	Mean percentage Humidity.	General Direction.	Average Force.
1907.									
April ...	139·2	75·2	49·8	8·7	58·2	1·298	74·4	N.W. & S.	3·4
May ...	139·6	80·6	51·0	11·0	64·8	—	75·3	E. & S.E.	2·5
June ...	141·0	84·2	58·5	11·8	69·8	—	68·3	W. & N.W.	3·3
July ...	146·0	90·0	67·5	13·0	76·0	0·012	75·7	S. & N.W.	1·7
August ...	150·0	94·1	69·9	11·2	78·7	—	69·9	N.W. & W.	1·8
September...	146·0	86·7	60·0	10·1	74·5	2·296	89·2	S.E. & S.	1·8
October ...	147·6	90·5	57·3	9·5	72·0	5·340	74·1	S. & S.E.	2·1
November ...	140·0	79·0	55·0	8·2	64·5	3·923	74·4	S. & S.E.	2·3
December ...	133·0	70·5	47·0	8·5	58·0	0·510	76·2	W. & S.	2·0
1908									
January ...	131·9	67·5	48·0	8·1	54·8	0·696	78·3	E. & W.	2·8
February ...	128·0	63·5	41·5	7·7	53·3	2·441	74·3	S.W. & W.	2·6
March ...	133·0	64·4	47·6	8·4	55·5	2·981	75·6	W. & N.W.	3·0

143. The highest temperature in the shade was 94·1° on the 12th August, 1907, and the lowest 41·5° on the 4th February last. The mean temperature for the year was 65·0°, as compared with 63·8° in 1906–7. The mean temperature for the summer months

(June, July, August, and September) was 80·9°, or 4·8° above the mean for the same months in 1906. The mean temperature for the winter months (January, February, and March) was 54·5°, or 3·2° above that of the same months in 1907.

144. The total rainfall was 19·479 inches, or 9·466 inches below that of the previous year. The average rainfall for the past seven years was 22·916 inches. The greatest amount of rain in one day was 3·706 inches on the 20th October, 1907, which was the heaviest fall of rain in one day since 1883.

145. The prevailing winds were south on 56 days, west on 52 days, and north-west on 45 days, while the average velocity per hour was 8·6 miles, as against 10 miles in the previous twelve months.

146. The average number of hours of bright sunshine per day was 8·2.

VII.—POSTAL, TELEGRAPH, AND TELEPHONE SERVICES.

(A.) Post Office.

147. The transactions of the Post Office during 1907-8, as compared with those of the previous year, continue to show a decline in almost all branches, which is attributable mainly to commercial depression.

Postal Matter Dealt with.

148. Details of the postal matter dealt with in the past two years are given in the following table :—

	1906-7.		1907-8.	
	Received.	Despatched.	Received.	Despatched.
Letters	1,830,179	2,090,062	1,758,770	2,109,601
Post-cards... ...	257,322	474,006	222,664	383,877
Printed matter ...	875,849	408,694	915,642	363,363
Parcels	49,401	15,468	48,685	14,672
Total... ...	3,012,751	2,988,230	2,945,761	2,871,513
	6,000,981		5,817,274	

There was, therefore, a decrease of 183,707, in the total number of articles which passed through the post during the year under review.

Mails.

149. The total number of mails received was 7,750, and the number despatched 5,177, as against 7,439 and 5,110, respectively, in 1906–7.

Registered Articles.

150 The total number of registered articles received and despatched was 139,212, as against 140,843 in 1906–7, a decrease of 1,631.

Money Orders and Postal Orders.

151. The total number of money orders issued and paid in the Colony was 11,397 (£42,731), as against 11,095, (£44,474) in the previous year, and the total number of postal orders issued and paid was 116,786 (£65,681) as against 113,623 (£66,643) in 1906–7.

Parcel Post.

152. The total number of parcels received and despatched during the year was 63,357, as against 64,869 in 1906–7, showing a decrease of 1,512 parcels, attributable partly to the competition of steamship companies which carry larger and heavier parcels than can be forwarded through the post, and partly to the recent reduction in the rate of postage for letters, owing to which small packets, hitherto forwarded by parcel post, are now sent as letters.

(B.) TELEGRAPHS.

153. The foreign telegraph system is under the exclusive control of the Eastern Telegraph Company. There are no local telegraphs.

(C.) TELEPHONES.

154. The total length of aerial telephone wires belonging to the military authorities on the 31st March last, was 650 miles, the total length open to the public being 18½ miles, the same as in the previous year.

155. The "Melita Telephone Exchange," which is a private company, had 720 miles of wires on the 31st March, 1908, as against 696 miles of wires on the same date in the previous year.

VIII.—MILITARY FORCES AND EXPENDITURE.

156. The total strength of the garrison on the 31st March, 1908, was 8,926 of all ranks, as against 8,709 on the corresponding date in the previous year, distributed as follows :—

(*a*) Regular troops :—		
Officers	305	
Warrant officers	42	
Non-commissioned officers and men	6,506	
		6,853
(*b*) Militia (King's Own Malta Regiment and Royal Engineers, Malta Division) :—		
Officers	58	
Warrant officers	2	
Non-commissioned officers and men	2,013	
		2,073
Total		8,926

157. The total expenditure on the garrison was £468,244, as against £494,439 in 1906-7, while the cost of the Militia was £15,988, against £14,267 in the previous year.

158. The colonial contribution was, as usual, £5,000.

IX.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

Visit of Their Majesties the King and Queen.

159. Their Majesties King Edward VII. and Queen Alexandra, accompanied by H.R.H. Princess Victoria, honoured these islands with a visit in April, 1907. The Royal party arrived here on the 13th and remained till the 17th, and was everywhere received with loyal enthusiasm by all classes of the population.

A levée was held by His Majesty in the Hall of St. Michael and St. George in the Valletta Palace, at which many presentations were made. The troops composing the garrison were reviewed by His Majesty at Marsa, and a naval review was held at Floriana, after which the King was pleased to unveil the memorial which has been erected in the Maglio Gardens to the memory of Sir Adrian Dingli, late Chief Justice and President of the Court of Appeal.

Appointment of a High Commissioner.

160. Another important event of the year was the appointment, under His Majesty's Letters Patent of the 10th December, 1907, of His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught and Strathearn, K.G., K.T., K.P., G.C.B., G.C.S.I., G.C.M.G., G.C.I.E., G.C.V.O., to be Field Marshal Commanding-in-Chief the British Troops and High Commissioner in the Mediterranean.

His Royal Highness, who was accompanied by Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Connaught, arrived on board H.M.S. "Aboukir" on the 4th January last, and received a cordial welcome.

The Valletta and Sant' Antonio Palaces have been temporarily placed at the disposal of Their Royal Highnesses during their stay in Malta.

Political Situation.

161. The Council of Government which had been in existence since the 20th May, 1904, was prorogued on the 28th March, 1907, and a writ was issued for a general election on the 1st April, the following candidates being nominated, viz. :—

1st	District—	Andrea Pullicino, Esq., M.D.
2nd	„	Paolo Sammut, Esq.
3rd	„	Francesco Azzopardi, Esq., P.L.
4th	„	Beniamino Bonnici, Esq., LL.D.
5th	„	Salvatore Cachia Zammit, Esq.
6th	„	Alfredo Mattei, Esq., LL.D.
7th	„	Alfonso Maria Micallef, Esq.
8th	„	Arturo Mercieca, Esq., M.A., LL.D.

162. As only one candidate was nominated for each district, it was not necessary to take a poll, and the above-mentioned candidates were returned as elected.

163. The first session of the new Council was held on the 29th May, when the elected members, who had been absent from the Council since June, 1903, took their seats. After some pressing business had been disposed of, the Council was adjourned to the 13th November.

Changes in Establishment.

164. Sir Charles Mansfield Clarke, Bart., G.C.B., G.C.V.O., relinquished the administration of these islands on the 2nd May, 1907, and the senior military officer in the command (Major General H. Barron, C.V.O.), administered the government till the arrival of His Excellency Lieutenant-General H. F. Grant, C.B., on the 31st October, 1907.

165. Owing to the elevation of Professor (now Judge) Parnis to the Bench, a vacancy occurred in the chair of Commercial

law in the University, and Mr M. A. Refalo, LL.D., was appointed professor in that subject, in December, 1907.

Railway.

166. The gross revenue for the year was £8,420, as against £8,223 in 1906–7, and the expenditure, including the cost of renewals, (£1,815) was £8,376, as against £9,494 in the previous year.

Railway Technical School.

167. The average number of apprentices who attended the school during the year under review was 17, as against 16 in 1906–7.

Waterworks.

168. The cost of the waterworks branch (exclusive of new works) was £13,379, and the revenue derived from water supplied and rent of meters was £18,113, as compared with £13,013 and £19,256, respectively, in 1906-7.

169. The new service reservoir at Sliema was completed during the year, and further progress was made with the work of deepening the tunnel between Wied-el-Kbir and Wied-is-Seuda pumping stations.

170. 580,205,000 gallons of water were consumed, as against 657,000,000 gallons consumed in the previous year.

Electric Lighting.

171. The revenue derived from the electric lighting installation was £17,421, against £18 293 in 1906–7, and the working expenses amounted to £11,100, as against £11,057.

172. The capital outlay on the 31st March, 1908, was £70,541, and the net profit on the year's working was £6,321, or 8·9 per cent. of the capital outlay.

173. In 1906–7 the net profit was £7,236; there was, therefore, a shrinkage of £915 in the year under review, due mainly to the facts (*a*) that the amount due by the Military Authorities for current supplied to them during the last quarter had not been paid at the close of the financial year; (*b*) that, owing to improvements in the glow-lamps, less current was consumed for street lighting than in 1906–7, and (*c*) that the cost of renewals, which in previous years was charged to the renewal and extension fund, was in 1907–8 defrayed from general revenue.

174. The total number of units generated (exclusive of central station units) was 1,070,720, and the consumption of coal amounted to 3,168 tons, as compared with 972,657 units generated, and 3,279 tons of coal consumed in 1906–7. It will be noted that although the number of units generated in 1907–8

was considerably larger than that of the previous year, it was found possible to effect an economy of nearly 1 lb. per unit generated, the consumption of coal having been 6·6 lbs. per unit, as against 7·5 lbs. per unit in 1906–7. This is attributable mainly to the excellent quality of the coal, which was obtained through the Crown Agents.

Survey of the Island.

175. The work done on the survey of the Island in 1907–8 was as follows :—

Survey with plane table	1,727·3 acres.
Traversing	105·3 miles.
Sheets checked (3,357·2 acres) ...	6½ No.
„ published (3,096 acres)	6 „
„ being printed at Chatham (1,033 acres).	2 „

Social Condition of the People.

176. There is little or no change to record during the past twelve months. The supply of labour now exceeds the demand, and a considerable number of artizans are unable to obtain employment. The outlook is, undoubtedly, not encouraging, in view of the large annual increase of the population, but the situation has not yet become so acute as to induce the working classes to contemplate emigration.

I have, &c.,

E. M. Merewether,

Lieutenant-Governor and
Chief Secretary to Government.

COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following recent reports relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, &c.	Year.
538	Bechuanaland Protectorate	1906–1907
539	Leeward Islands	"
540	Straits Settlements	1906
541	Turks and Caicos Islands	"
542	Somaliland Protectorate	1906–1907
543	Bahamas	"
544	Barbados	"
545	Trinidad and Tobago	"
546	Grenada	"
547	Mauritius	1906
548	Fiji	"
549	Jamaica	1906–1907
550	British Guiana	"
551	Northern Nigeria	"
552	British Honduras	1906
553	St. Lucia	1906–1907
554	Southern Nigeria	1906
555	St. Vincent	1906–1907
556	Basutoland	"
557	East Africa Protectorate	"
558	Uganda Protectorate	"
559	Swaziland	"
560	St. Helena	1907
561	Ceylon	"
562	Falkland Islands	"
563	Gibraltar	"
564	Ashanti	"
565	Colonial Survey Committee	1907–1908
566	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	1907
557	Seychelles	"
568	Bermuda	"
569	Weihaiwei	"
570	Hong Kong	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, &c.	Subject.
44	East Africa Protectorate	Survey Department.
45	Do. do.	Geology.
46	Northern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1904–5.
47	Do. do.	Do. 1905–6.
48	Nyasaland Protectorate	Do.
49	East Africa Protectorate	Veterinary Department.
50	British Colonies	Cotton Cultivation.
51	Southern Nigeria	Forest Administration.
52	South Africa	Native Education.
53	East Africa Protectorate	Veterinary Bacteriological work, 1907–8.

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PRINTED FOR HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE,
BY DARLING & SON, LTD., 34-40, BACON STREET, E.

1908.

Lt. Mr '09

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 610.

MALTA.

REPORT FOR 1908-9.

(For Report for 1907-8, *see* No. 571.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
September, 1909.

LONDON:
PRINTED FOR HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE,
By DARLING & SON, Ltd., 34-40, Bacon Street, E.

And to be purchased, either directly or through any Bookseller, from
WYMAN and SONS, Ltd., Fetter Lane, E.C., and
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OLIVER & BOYD, Tweeddale Court, Edinburgh; or
E. PONSONBY, 116, Grafton Street, Dublin.

1909.

[Cd. 4448-19.] *Price* 6*d.*

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No. 610.

MALTA.

(For Report for 1907–8, *see* No. 571.)

THE GOVERNOR to the SECRETARY OF STATE.

The Palace,
Valletta,
30th July, 1909.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to forward, for your Lordship's information, the accompanying report by the Lieutenant-Governor and Chief Secretary to Government, on the Malta Blue Book for the year 1908-9.

I have, &c.,

H. F. GRANT,
Governor.

The Right Honourable
The Earl of Crewe, K.G.,
&c., &c., &c.

(14131—2.) Wt. 26122—822. 1125. 9/09. D & S. A 2

Lieutenant-Governor's Office,

Malta,

25th July, 1909.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to submit the folowing report on the annual Blue Book for the year 1908-9:—

I.—FINANCIAL.

1. The revenue for the year 1908-9 was £457,520, and the expenditure £445,014, showing an excess of revenue over expenditure of £12,506. It may be mentioned that both the revenue and the expenditure include a sum of £14,165, representing duties on articles of consumption received from, and refunded to, the Navy, which is merely a paper transaction. The actual revenue was therefore £443,355, and the actual expenditure £430,849. The surplus brought forward from previous years was £124,463, and the total surplus standing to the credit of the Government on the 31st March, 1909 (including the reserve of £40,000 and the sum of £50,000 earmarked for the electric lighting installation), was £136,969.

2. The estimated revenue for the year was £441,803, and the actual revenue £457,520, showing an excess over the estimate of £15,717, and of £19,172 over the amount collected in 1907-8. These excesses are mainly due to the cause mentioned above.

3. There were excesses under nine heads, viz.:—Customs, Harbour and Quarantine Duties, Fees of Court, Post Office, Electric Lighting, Rents, Interest, Miscellaneous Receipts, and Land Sales, amounting in the aggregate to £18,435, and deficits under the remaining heads amounting to £2,718, the net surplus being £15,717, as stated above.

4. The principal excesses were as follows:—

Customs (£3,953) due to the payment of import duty on certain articles formerly imported by the Admiralty free of duty;

Interest (£2,013) due to the fact that the interest on certain securities and the year's profit of the Savings Bank were under-estimated;

Miscellaneous Receipts (£3,752) principally due to the transfer to revenue of deposits standing to the credit of the Government;

Land Sales. (£6,235) due to the sale during the year of certain public lands to the Admiralty.

5. The only head of revenue which shows a considerable deficit is Railway (£1,422), the reason for the deficit being a reduction in the traffic owing to the competition of the tramway.

6. The revenue exceeded that for 1907-8 by £19,172. The principal increases were under:—(i.) Customs (£6,965); (ii.) Water Service (£1,473); (iii.) Electric Lighting (£1,338); (iv.) Rents (£3,307); (v.) Miscellaneous Receipts (£3,475); and (vi.) Land Sales (£6,114).

7. The increases are chiefly due to the following causes, viz.:—

(i.) Duty is now paid on certain commodities imported for consumption on board His Majesty's ships, formerly allowed to enter duty-free—the amount being afterwards refunded in the form of drawback; the amount of duty payable in respect of certain malt imported since 1902 was paid in 1908-9; there was also an increase in the importation of flour, petroleum, sugar, cotton oil, potatoes, pulse, and seeds.

(ii.) The amount due by the War Department for water consumed in military buildings during the last quarter of 1907-8 was paid in 1908-9; there was also an increase in the general consumption of water and in the number of meters for which rent is paid.

(iii.) There was an increase in the number of private installations, and the amount due by the War Department for current consumed in military buildings during the last quarter of 1906-7 was paid within that year, instead of in April of the subsequent year.

(iv.) Payment of arrears, and the fact that the amount of rents remaining unpaid at the end of the year was less than in 1907-8.

(v.) Certain deposits were transferred to revenue as already mentioned above.

(vi.) Sale of land to the Admiralty, a reference to which will be found in paragraph 45 of this report.

8. The principal decreases are under Railway (£1,255) and Interest (£1,345), the former of which is attributable to a reduction in the traffic as already stated in paragraph 5, and the latter to the sale of Government securities in order to meet withdrawals from the Savings Bank; to a shrinkage in the profits of the Savings Bank, and to the withdrawal of fixed deposits from the Anglo-Egyptian Bank during the last six months of 1907-8.

9. The following table gives the revenue collected during the last five years:—

Year.	Revenue.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£
1904–5	467,835	—	—
1905–6	467,240	—	595
1906–7	513,594	46,354	—
1907–8	438,348	—	75,346
1908–9	457,520	19,172	—

10. The total expenditure for 1908-9 amounted to £445,014, and was made up as follows:—

Establishments:—		
Personal emoluments	£167,473	
Other charges	117,756	
		£285,229
Interest, pensions, military expenditure, and miscellaneous services		75,631
Public works		84,154
Total		£445,014

11. The actual expenditure fell short of the estimate by £46,781.

12. There were no excesses of any importance, while there were considerable savings under various heads. By far the most important saving was under Public Works (£25,925), and this was mainly due to the fact that all work under the drainage flushing scheme was suspended pending the receipt of the experts' report.

13. The expenditure in 1908-9 was £445,014, as against £454,669 in 1907-8, showing a decrease of £9,655 in the year under review.

14. The only increase of any importance was under Miscellaneous Services (£8,448), and was due principally to an increase in the amount of the import duties refunded to the Admiralty (*vide* paragraph 1 of this report).

15. The principal decrease was under Public Works, and was due to the fact that the expenditure on maintenance works was less than in the previous year, and that the works on the drainage flushing scheme have been suspended since August, 1908, pending the result of an expert enquiry into the scheme.

16. The expenditure on public works during 1908-9 was as follows:—

	£
Annually recurrent expenditure ...	49,865
Special services	34,289
	84,154

17. The assets and liabilities of the Government on the 31st March, 1909, as compared with those of the previous year, were:—

Year.	Assets.	Liabilities.	Surplus.
	£	£	£
1907-8	801,035	676,572	124,463
1908-9	797,295	660,326	136,969
Decrease	3,740	16,246	—
Increase	—	—	12,506

The decrease in the assets is due principally to the sale of securities in order to meet repayments of deposits in the Savings Bank, and the decrease in the liabilities to withdrawals of Savings Bank deposits.

18. The amount of interest paid by the Government in 1908-9 on funds invested in the " Massa Frumentaria " was £2,148, as against £2,008 paid in the preceding year.

19. The amount of British coin in circulation in the Colony on the 31st March, 1908, is reckoned roughly at £415,000, made up of £375,000 in sovereigns, £15,000 in half-sovereigns, and £25,000 in silver and bronze.

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

20. The total value of dutiable goods imported during the past two years was estimated as follows:—

	£
1907-8	1,236,530
1908-9	1,273,049
Increase	£36,519

21. The following table gives the estimated values of the imports of dutiable goods in each of the five years preceding 1908-9, and the average estimated value for that period compared with that of the imports in the year under review:—

Year.	United Kingdom.	British Possessions.	H.M. Ships.	Foreign Countries.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£
1903–4	292,483	35,784	457	989,706	1,318,430
1904–5	239,524	36,727	957	1,058,623	1,335,831
1905–6	221,988	26,341	726	1,035,214	1,284,269
1906–7	218,461	20,958	249	980,151	1,219,819
1907–8	269,243	22,362	382	944,543	1,236,530
Average for 5 years	248,340	28,434	554	1,001,647	1,278,976
1908–9	295,852	23,805	348	953,044	1,273,049
Above Average ...	47,512	—	—	—	—
Below Average ...	—	4,629	206	48,603	5,927

22. The principal imports of dutiable goods from the United Kingdom were:—

Beer, £67,606; manufactured grain, £111,618; cotton-seed oil, £14,470; potatoes, £21,880; spirits, £20,074; superior wines, £2,415; sugar, £12,587; tobacco, £24,659; and wheat, £12,122.

From British Possessions:—

Frozen and preserved beef and mutton, £22,224; and wheat, £1,447.

From foreign countries:—

Bullocks, £130,846; horses, £5,259; mules, £995; wheat, £263,719; barley, £5,472; saggina, £22,035; manufactured grain, £63,246; olive oil, £36,969; cotton-seed oil, £10,704; potatoes, £8,433; pulse, £94,235; seeds, £35,976; spirits, £7,731; wine, £76,518; petroleum, £38,159; sugar, £108,957; and tobacco, £36,117.

23. The total estimated value of goods imported for local consumption in 1908-9 was £1,273,049, made up as follows:—

	£
Imported from the United Kingdom ...	295,852
Imported from British possessions	23,805
Imported from foreign countries	953,044
Landed from His Majesty's ships	348
Total	£1,273,049

24. The following table shows the dutiable articles imported for local consumption in 1908-9, and the amount of duty collected on each article, as compared with the amount received in the previous year:—

Article.	1907-8.	1908-9.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Barley	319	95	—	224
Beer	24,601	21,874	—	2,727
Bullocks	12,831	11.338	—	1,493
Horses	359	331	22	—
Imported meat	3,601	4,080	479	—
Indian corn	42	33	—	9
Inferior grain	48	47	—	1
Malt	273	725	452	—
Manufactured grain	34,379	40,501	6,122	—
Mules	134	72	—	62
Oil	2,921	3,289	368	—
Petroleum	5,807	7,361	1,554	—
Potatoes	2,338	3,162	824	—
Pulse	4,858	5,492	634	—
Refuse grain	3	4	1	—
Refuse manufactured grain ...	27	26	—	1
Saggina	2,312	1,930	—	382
Seeds	1,965	2,228	263	—
Sheep	84	59	—	25
Spirits	31,084	35,065	3,981	—
Sugar	6,062	6,577	515	—
Tobacco	11,672	12,374	702	—
Vinegar	106	114	8	—
Wheat	55,086	52,186	—	2,900
Wine	46,076	44,942	—	1,134
Total	246,988	253,955	15,925	8,958

25. The principal increases were the following:—

Manufactured wheat, £6,122,—due partly to a falling off in the importation of wheat, and partly to the fact that duty is now being paid on flour formerly imported by the Admiralty duty free, the amount being subsequently refunded in the form of drawback.

Petroleum, £1,554,—attributable to an increase in local consumption, which is possibly due to a fall in prices during the year.

Spirits, £3,981;—this increase is only apparent, and is due to the payment of import duty on spirits consumed on board His Majesty's ships, formerly imported free of duty.

26. The principal decreases were the following:—

Beer, £2,727;—due to shrinkage in local consumption.

Bullocks, £1,493;—due to the fact that fewer animals were imported, prices having ruled high abroad during the year.

Wheat, £2,900;—attributable to restricted exportation from Russia, where there was a falling off in output. The decrease is partly compensated by the increase under manufactured wheat as stated above.

Wine, £1,134;—due partly to shrinkage in local consumption, and partly to displacement of foreign wine by cheap wine made locally.

27. The total estimated value of imported dutiable goods exported from bond or transhipped in the past two years (exclusive of local produce) was as follows:—

	£
1907-8	159,436
1908-9	120,336
Decrease	£39,100

28. The following table gives the exports for the past five years:—

Year.	United Kingdom.	British Possessions.	H.M. Ships.	Foreign Countries.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£
1904–5	1,429	536	18,932	94,442	115,339
1905–6	1,624	512	15,209	108,108	125,453
1906–7	2,447	280	11,313	109,470	123,510
1907–8	1,525	507	17,387	140,017	159,436
1908–9	3,936	658	5,191	110,551	120,336

29. The principal exports of imported goods to the United Kingdom were:—

Manufactured tobacco, £1,162; unmanufactured tobacco, £1,151; and olive oil, £937.

To British possessions:—

Cigarettes, £386; wine, £1,000; and cigars, £95.

To foreign countries:—

Wheat, £7,847; barley, £2,162; olive oil, £2,454; spirits, £2,138; wine, £6,979; sugar, £51,808; and tobacco, £6,090.

30. The exports of local produce in the past two years, as reported by the steamship agents, were as follows:—

Article.	1907–8.	1908–9.
	Cantars. Cwts.	Cantars. Cwts.
Cheese	1,224 = 1,913	254 = 396
Potatoes	184,512 = 288,300	128,315 = 200,492
Cummin-seed	2,568 = 4,013	2,961 = 4,626
Onions	9,532 = 14,894	20,524 = 32,068
Other vegetables	13,869 = 21,670	13,587 = 21,229
Cotton	465 = 727	79 = 123
	Dozen.	Dozen.
Oranges	35,500	40,020
	Number.	Number.
Goats and sheep	778	1,195
	Canne.*	Cases.
Cotton goods	350	3
	Bales.	Bales.
	304	342
	Tons in bulk.	Tons in bulk.
Stone...	800	700
	Slabs and blocks.	Slabs and blocks.
	57,292	59,421

* 1 Canna (or Cane) = 6 feet 10½ inches.

Fisheries.

31. It is estimated that the large fish caught in Maltese waters (viz.:—tunny, white tunny, sword-fish, dolphin, bonitoes, &c.), amounted to 470 cantars, or about 37 tons, and that about 1,220 cantars were imported during the year.

Agricultural Industries, &c.

32. The total area of land under cultivation in Malta and Gozo in 1908-9 was 41,029 acres, as against 40,983 in the previous year, while the area of uncultivated land at the end of 1908-9 was estimated at 4,798, as compared with 4,854 acres in the previous year.

33. At the end of the year, the number of holdings was estimated at 10,500 (the average acreage being 3·9 acres per holding), as against 10,000 in 1907-8, showing an increase of 500 holdings, attributable to scarcity of work in the towns and harbours, owing to which agricultural labourers are now returning to the land.

34. As in the previous year, the principal agricultural products were wheat, barley, and a mixture of both known as "mischiato."

The total area under cereals was 13,456 acres, and the total yield in the past two years was as follows:—

Year.	Wheat.	Barley.	Mischiato.	Total.
	Qrs.	Qrs.	Qrs.	Qrs.
1907-8	20,501	8,785	7,321	36,607
1908-9	20,846	8,811	7,640	37,297
Total	41,347	17,596	14,961	73,904

35. The area under beans and other pulse was 2,206 acres, as against 1,954, in 1907-8, an advance of 252 acres; and the total yield was 4,063 qrs., against 1,935 qrs. in the previous year. In 1907-8 the acreage under pulse was above the average for the previous five years; but owing to deficient rainfall and the prevalence of fungus disease the produce obtained in that year was not satisfactory. The crops were exempt from disease during the year under review.

36. The area planted with potatoes was 3,489 acres, as against 3,860 in the previous year, and the total yield was 370,800 cwts., as compared with 424,720 cwts. in 1907-8. There was, therefore, a decrease of 53,920 cwts., which is mainly accounted for by the fact that last year the production was much above the average for the past twenty years. There was an extraordinary increase in the importation of potatoes, the quantity imported being 103,232 cwts. (as against 87,664 in 1907-8), of which 68,760 cwts. were used as seed, 29,808 cwts. were consumed locally, and 4,664 cwts. were re-exported.

The increase in importation is attributable to the fact that larger consignments of potato-seed were imported for the winter crop.

37. The area planted with onions was 607 acres, against 665 acres in 1907-8, while the yield amounted to 3,575 tons, as compared with 2,043 tons, showing a satisfactory advance of nearly 50 per cent.

38. Cummin seed was planted on 2,033 acres, against 1,323 acres in 1907-8, and the total yield was 3,500 cwts., as compared with 2,375 cwts. in the preceding year.

39. The total quantity of oranges, lemons, and mandarines gathered is estimated at 122,622 dozen, as against 194,648 dozen in 1907-8, a decrease of 70,026. Last year's production was, however, above the average.

40. Cotton was grown on 823 acres, as against 871 acres in 1907-8, and the total yield was 173,883 lbs. (or, on an average, 211 lbs. per acre), against 211,523 lbs. (with an average yield of 245 lbs. per acre) in the preceding year. The average price obtained was 5½*d.* per lb. The amount of cotton exported was only 13,906 lbs.; this was all sent to Genoa, which seems to have been the only market where a reasonable price was offered.

41. 11,280 acres of land were under clover, barley (cut in the green stage), vetches, &c., as against 11,790 acres in 1907-8, and the total yield amounted to 370,911 loads of 10 bundles each, as compared with 425,356 loads in the preceding year, showing a net decrease of 54,445 loads. There has been a marked decline under forage in the past two years, which may possibly be due to a decrease in the number of horses and mules in the two islands.

42. The live-stock in Malta and Gozo during the past two years is shown below:—

——	1907-8.	1908-9.
Asses	3,764	3,740
Goats	20,920	20,813
Horned cattle	7,060	7,119
Horses	3,835	3,608
Mules	3,456	3,266
Pigs	5,724	4,122
Sheep	14,063	17,509
Total...	58,822	60,177

43. Plants, seeds, and other requisites were imported from various countries during the year for the Botanic Gardens to the total value of £114.

44. Experiments were made during the year, with satisfactory results, with tubers of the " Eclipse " and Scotch " Champion " varieties, imported from the United Kingdom. The total quantity imported was 25 cwts., and the produce obtained amounted to 171 cwts., of which 148 cwts. were exported, while the remainder was consumed locally or saved for the winter crop.

Experiments were also made in the cultivation of asparagus, lettuce, parsley, radishes, and spinach.

Land Grants, &c.

45. 1,185·73 square canes of Crown lands (equal to 1·29 acres) were alienated during the year, at an average price of £5,240 per acre. The average price per acre obtained this year is much higher than that secured in 1907-8 (viz., £53 per acre), owing to the fact that certain lands (0·80 acres) on a valuable site overlooking the Grand Harbour were sold to the Admiralty for £6,575 10*s*., or £8,219 7*s*. 6*d*. per acre.

The number of leases issued by the Government during the year was 249, as against 310 in 1907-8.

Shipping.

46. The number and tonnage of the steamers and sailing vessels which entered and cleared during the past two years were as follows:—

Year.	Steamers.				Sailing Vessels.				Total.	
	Entered.		Cleared.		Entered.		Cleared.			
	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.
1907-8.. ..	2,315	3,738,694	2,309	3,728,829	939	53,801	915	45,439	6,478	7,566,763
1908-9.. ..	2,382	3,995,807	2,380	3,987,318	830	40,945	825	39,682	6,417	8,063,752
Increase ..	67	257,113	71	258,489	—	—	—	—	—	496,989
Decrease ..	—	—	—	—	109	12,856	90	5,757	61	—

47. The number of British ships which called at Malta during the year was 1,103, as against 1,148 in 1907-8, and their tonnage was 2,436,792, as against 2,490,767, giving a decrease of 45 in ships and 53,975 in tonnage.

48. The number of foreign ships was 1,279 (with a tonnage of 1,559,015), as against 1,167 ships (with a tonnage of 1,247,927). There was therefore an increase of 112 in foreign ships, and of 311,088 in tonnage.

The nationality of foreign steamers which called at Malta during 1908-9 was as follows:—

Nationality.	No. of Ships.	Tonnage.
Austrian	514	422,560
Belgian	12	16,470
Danish	14	12,430
French	57	42,973
German	316	585,572
Greek	32	42,901
Dutch	62	80,890
Italian	242	320,977
Norwegian	10	15,140
Miscellaneous	20	19,102
Total	1,279	1,559,015

49. The following table gives the tonnage of British and foreign shipping which entered and cleared with cargoes in 1908-9, as distinguished from vessels in ballast, compared with the figures for 1907-8:—

—	1907–8.			1908–9.		
	British.	Foreign.	Total.	British.	Foreign.	Total.
Entered	2,429,312	1,180,397	3,609,709	2,366,332	1,489,256	3,855,588
Cleared	2,321,660	1,063,521	3,385,181	2,148,246	1,479,195	3,627,441
Total	4,750,972	2,243,918	6,994,890	4,514,578	2,968,451	7,483,029

There was, therefore, a decrease of 236,394 tons in British, and an increase of 724,533 tons in foreign shipping, the net total increase in tonnage being 488,139.

The total revenue collected by the Government from tonnage dues was £6,425, as against £6,151, showing an increase of £274 in the year under review.

50. The total shipping entered and cleared for the last five years was as follows:—

Year.	Entered.		Cleared.	
	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.
1904–5	3,803	3,986,502	3,829	3,980,516
1905–6	3,524	3,718,168	3,511	3,718,349
1906–7	3,344	3,645,906	3,338	3,651,918
1907–8	3,254	3,792,495	3,224	3,774,268
1908–9	3,212	4,036,752	3,205	4,027,000

III.—LEGISLATION.

51. Eight Ordinances were passed by the Legislature during the year under review. The only Ordinance which is of sufficient importance to call for special notice is No. VIII. of 1908, which amends and consolidates the laws preventing the introduction and spread of infectious, contagious, and epidemic diseases affecting either mankind or animals. It also contains several additional provisions which experience has shown to be necessary.

IV.—EDUCATION.

Primary Education.

52. The number of day schools in Malta and Gozo was the same as in the previous year, viz., 99, as shown below:—

—	Malta.	Gozo.	Total.
Boys	29	9	38
Girls	30	9	39
Infants...	7	1	8
Drawing (boys)	5	—	5
„ (girls)	5	—	5
Wood-carving	3	—	3
Sunday School (Secular instruction) ...	1	—	1
Total	80	19	99

53. The number of night schools was also the same as in 1907-8, viz., 38 (33 in Malta and 5 in Gozo).

54. The schools at Zeitun and Zabbar were opened in June, 1908. The new school at Sliema will probably be opened in March, 1910.

55. The number of children of school age registered in the books as seeking admission on the 31st March, 1909, but who could not be admitted for want of accommodation, was 2,660, as against 4,060 on the corresponding date in the previous year; 693 had been admitted by the end of June, leaving 1,967 children still unprovided for, as compared with 2,590 in June, 1908.

56. The number of children admitted to the day schools during the year was 6,718, and the number of those who left school was 5,357, as compared with 6,799 and 5,256, respectively, in 1907-8, while the number of pupils admitted to the night schools was 2,984, as against 2,734 in the previous year.

Of the pupils who left school, 32 (13 boys and 19 girls) were appointed monitors and monitresses in the Government schools: 29 passed into the Lyceum; 15 were successful at the competitive examinations held during the year for apprenticeships in His Majesty's Dockyard; 28 were admitted to the Archiepiscopal Seminary in Malta; while 3 obtained employment in the Public Works Department.

The number who left school during the year before reaching Standard III. was 2,813, as against 2,860 in 1907-8.

57. The attendance in the day schools on the 1st September, 1908, was 17,968, as against 17,675 on the same date in the previous year.

The night schools were attended by 2,248 pupils at the beginning of the scholastic year (1st October, 1908), as against 2,179 on the corresponding date in 1907.

The total enrolment of pupils in the day and night schools (including the Sunday school) at the beginning of the scholastic year was 20,262, as against 19,905 in 1907.

The average annual enrolment was 18,445, and the average annual attendance 15,149, as against 17,861 and 14,705, respectively, in 1907-8.

The percentage of attendance to enrolment was 82·1, as against 82·3 in 1907-8.

The highest enrolment was 21,600 and the lowest 15,291, as against 21,095 and 14,854 in the previous year.

58. Out of 5,148 parents or guardians who were invited to select the language of colloquial instruction for their children or wards, on their being admitted to the schools, or on their being promoted to Standards I. and II., 96·5 per cent. chose English, and 3·5 per cent. chose Italian, as against 94·8 per cent. for English, and 5·2 per cent. for Italian in 1907-8.

In the case of admissions or promotions to Standard III., out of 2,946 parents or guardians who selected the secondary language of instruction for their children or wards, 98·9 per cent. chose English, and 1·1 per cent. Italian, as compared with 98·4 per cent. for English, and 1·6 per cent. for Italian in the previous year.

59. The number of parents or guardians of pupils attending the higher standards who made a choice of the language in which they desired their children to be examined was 2,185, as against 2,104 in 1907-8. Of these, 1,555 or 71·2 per cent. selected English only, 607 or 27·8 per cent. chose English and Italian, and 23 or 1 per cent. selected Italian only. The corresponding percentages in the previous year were 71, 28 and 1, respectively.

60. The number of pupils borne on the rolls was 15,076, as against 14,838 in 1907-8. The number individually examined was 14,155, of whom 12,458 or 80 per cent. obtained passes, with an average percentage of 80·3 marks, as against 15,006 pupils examined in 1907-8, of whom 11,588 or 82·7 per cent. had passes with an average percentage of 78·5 marks.

61. The strength of the teaching staff during the year was as follows:—

Head masters	40
Head mistresses	49
Assistant teachers (males)	220
Monitors	34
Assistant teachers (females)	290
Monitresses	94
Teachers of drawing, dress-cutting, lace-making ...	10
Total	737

62. Two male students were sent to the Training College at Bristol for training, and two female students were sent to the Training College, St. Charles Square, London. A satisfactory report was received on the first year's work of the male students who were sent to St. Mary's Training College, Hammersmith, in 1907-8.

Of the present staff, 19 masters and 21 mistresses were trained in England.

Twelve male and ten female teachers attended a special preparatory training class for young teachers desirous of proceeding to England for training, which was started in November last.

63. The total cost of the Elementary Schools was £26,935, as against £26,375 in 1907-8. Of the expenditure in 1908-9, £23,093 was for personal emoluments, and £3,842 for other charges, as against £22,340 and £3,975, respectively, in the previous year.

64. The average cost per pupil, calculated on the number of pupils on the rolls at the beginning of the scholastic year, was 26*s*. 7*d*.; calculated on the average enrolment, 29*s*. 3*d*.; and calculated on the average annual attendance, 35*s*. 7*d*., as against 26*s*. 6*d*., 29*s*. 6*d*., and 35*s*. 10½*d*., respectively, in 1907-8.

Secondary Education.

65. The average number of students on the register in the Secondary School for girls, Valletta, at the end of the scholastic year (30th September, 1908), was 263, including 57 little boys, as against 218, including 44 little boys, in September, 1907.

66. The average number of students on the register of the Secondary School for boys, Gozo, was 44, as against 56 in the previous year, and the percentage of attendance was 89, as against 92 in the previous year.

67. As the scholastic year in the Lyceum and University commences in October, the returns for these institutions are a year behind-hand.

68. The average number of students borne on the registers was 594, as against 593 in 1906-7.

69. The daily average attendance was 517, as against 500 in 1906-7, and the percentage of attendance was 87, as against 84.

70. The number of boys admitted in 1907-8 was 103 out of 200 candidates, as against the same number of admissions out of 164 candidates in the previous year.

71. At the annual examinations held in July, 386 students were examined in English, and 369 in Italian, and the number of passes in English was 363 or 94 per cent., and in Italian 279 or 76 per cent.

72. The average number of students on the register of the University was 165, against 242 in the previous year, showing a decrease of 77, due to the facts that the academical courses were completed and a certain number of students left the University, and that the number of " uditori " was less than in the previous year.

73. Fifty-three candidates entered for the Matriculation Examination held in 1908. Of these 30 were successful.

74. The average cost of education per student was as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
Secondary School (Girls)	2	0	1
,, ,, (Boys)	8	7	9
Lyceum	5	11	10
University	26	15	0

The average fees paid by students in the different institutions are as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
Secondary School (Girls)	1	16	1
,, ,, (Boys)		Nil	
Lyceum	1	4	5
University	4	6	11

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

75. The total number of persons admitted into the hospitals and maintained in the other charitable institutions of Malta and Gozo (exclusive of staff) was 6,982. In addition to these, 116,059 persons were attended by the District Medical Officers at the Government Dispensaries or at their own homes, and pecuniary assistance amounting in the aggregate to £3,465 was given to 2,459 persons.

76. The total cost of the charitable institutions in the two islands (exclusive of works) was £67,861.

77. The following table gives details regarding the number of persons treated in hospitals, poor-houses, and asylums during 1908-9:—

—	No. of Inmates on 1st April, 1908.	No. of admissions during the year.	Total.	No. discharged.	No. of deaths.	Remaining on 1st April, 1909.
Hospitals—						
Central Hospital	191	3,118	3,309	2,796	277	236
Seamen's Hospital ...	8	85	93	80	7	6
S. Spirito Hospital ...	70	359	429	312	41	76
Manoel Hospital	40	121	161	137	16	8
Gozo Hospital	41	528	569	451	69	49
Contagious Diseases Hospital, Gozo.	—	32	32	31	—	1
Poor-Houses—						
Malta Poor-House ...	1,001	243	1,244	58	196	990
Gozo Poor-House ...	139	56	195	7	42	146
Asylums—						
Lunatic Asylum	722	117	839	80	45	714
Orphan Asylum	100	11	111	11	—	100
Total	2,312	4,670	6,982	3,963	693	2,326

78. The total amount advanced by the Monte di Pieta on pledges was £48,802 on 28,121 articles, and the number of pledges redeemed was 23,622.

79. As in the previous year, the number of boys kept at the Industrial School was 40; 11 boys were withdrawn by their parents during the year, and were replaced by the same number under orders of the Civil Court.

80. Of the boys kept at this school, 30 were maintained by the Government at a cost of 1*s.* per diem each; and the total cost to the Government of this institution (including salaries, maintenance of pupils, outfits, tools, &c.) was £852, as against £837 in 1907-8.

81. The following private institutions received pecuniary assistance from the Government during the year under review:—

(*a.*) The Crêche, Valletta and Sliema.
(*b.*) The Casa di San Giuseppe, Hamrun.
(*c.*) The Convent of the Good Shepherd, Balzan.

The first named institution maintained a daily average of 60 infants and children in Valletta, and 70 at Sliema; while in the second the daily average was about 45 boys. The total number of orphans and penitent women who found a home in the Convent of the Good Shepherd during the year was 179, of whom, 80 orphans and 53 penitent women remained in the institution on the 31st March, 1909.

82. The number of depositors in the Savings Bank on the 31st March, 1909 was 7,873, and the amount standing to their

credit was £517,334, of which £495,454 was invested in Imperial and other British securities, and in the "Monte di Pieta."

83. The deposits made during the year amounted to £95,284, and the withdrawals to £127,080, as against £111,944 and £150,198, respectively, in 1907-8.

84. The expenses of management and the interest credited to depositors amounted to £9,759, while the revenue derived from interest and invested funds, unappropriated deposits, and sale of pass-books was £16,809, leaving a net profit of £7,049. In 1907-8 the net profit on the year's working was £7,352.

VI.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

85. The nominal strength of the police force on the 31st March, 1909, was 33 officers and 430 non-commissioned officers and men, and the actual strength was 30 officers and 430 non-commissioned officers and men.

86. The total number of licences issued or renewed in 1908-9 was 2,705 as against 2,616 in the previous year, and the total amount collected by the Government in respect of licences for the sale of wines and spirits and common wine was £3,438, as against £3,422 in 1907-8.

87. Licences to carry firearms for sporting purposes were taken by 2,340 persons during the year, as against 2,442 in 1907-8, and the fees levied amounted to £1,170, as against £1,221 in the previous year.

88. The number of security bonds signed under the Aliens Law was 304. The greater part of the immigrants were Italians (principally Sicilians), who came to Malta in search of employment as shoemakers, carpenters, masons, tailors, barbers, musicians, servants, &c. The number of female immigrants was 132, of whom 71 were registered as housewives. Three aliens were expelled as "undesirables" during the year, as against 14 in 1907-8.

89. The following table gives the total number of persons imprisoned in 1908-9:—

—	Remaining on 1st April, 1908.	Admitted 1908–9.	Total.	Discharged.	Executed.	Remaining on 31st March, 1909.
Malta—						
Criminal prisoners ...	191	5,105	5,296	5,124	1	171
Debtors	2	9	11	9	—	2
Gozo—						
Criminal prisoners ...	16	889	905	902	—	3
Debtors	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	209	6,003	6,212	6,035	1	176

90. The number of persons admitted during the year was 6,003, as against 6,416 in 1907-8.

The decrease is due to the fact that persons sentenced to three days' detention or less, were kept in the Valletta lock-up and not sent to the Corradino prison, as formerly.

91. The following table shows the total number of males and females imprisoned in the Corradino and Gozo prisons during the past two years.

	1907-8.			1908-9.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Malta—						
From Local Courts	5,227	333	5,560	4,623	486	5,109
„ Courts martial	19	—	19	4	—	4
„ Consular Courts	1	—	1	1	—	1
Gozo—						
From Local Courts	805	31	836	865	24	889
Total	6,052	364	6,416	5,493	510	6,003

92. The health of the prisoners was good. Twelve prisoners were admitted to the prison infirmary during the year, and the daily average on the sick list, including prisoners on medical diet, not admitted into hospital, was 22.

93. The number of prison offences was 672, as against 513 in 1907-8, and the punishments inflicted were as follows:—

Admonition	165
Solitary confinement on ordinary diet ...	167
Solitary confinement on bread and water ...	332
Reduction in class	8
Total	672

The increase in the number of offences was probably due to a stricter enforcement of discipline.

94. The prisoners were employed on various kinds of work, *e.g.*, pumping water, cultivation of the prison lands, and attending on sick prisoners; and those who knew a trade were employed as tailors, mat and broom makers, joiners, masons, painters, plasterers, shoemakers, stainers, tinmen, and plumbers.

95. The receipts were as follows:—

Maintenance of Consular and Naval convicts ...	£145
Sale of prison manufactures	200
Sale of produce of lands	141
	£486

as against £462 in 1907-8.

96. The total cost of the prisons for 1908-9 (exclusive of the Valletta Lock-up) was £3,557, viz.:—Corradino Prison, £3,404; Gozo Prison, £153.

97. The total number of offences reported to the police in the past two years is shown below:—

—	1907–8.	1908–9.
Offences against the person	5,501	6,862
Offences against the good order of families ...	122	195
Offences against property	2,266	2,860
Other offences	26,650	26,332
Total	34,539	36,249

a net increase of 1,710 offences in 1908-9.

98. The total number of offences dealt with by the Courts of Malta and Gozo was 21,852, made up as follows:—

—	Malta.	Gozo.	Total.
Crimes	597	91	688
Contraventions	18,474	2,690	21,164
Total	19,071	2,781	21,852

99. The number of offences not dealt with by the Courts was, therefore, 14,397 or 39·7 per cent. of the total number reported, while the number of crimes the perpetrators of which were not discovered, was 312 or 30·7 per cent. of the total number reported, which was 1,014.

100. The total number of persons summoned before the Magistrates of Judicial Police was 21,852, as against 23,239 in 1907-8, a decrease of 1,387. They are dealt with as follows:—

Summarily convicted	20,933
Committed for trial	114
Acquitted	270
Discharged for want of evidence or in default of prosecution	535
Total	21,852

101. The punishments inflicted on the persons who were summarily convicted were as follows:—

Imprisoned	358
Fined	16,354
Fined and imprisoned	15
Bound over	112
Admonished	4,065
Otherwise punished	29
Total	20,933

102. The number of persons admonished was 19 per cent., as against 21 per cent. in the previous year.

103. Four cases of murder were reported during the year, in one of which the perpetrator has not yet been discovered. Of the defendants in the other cases, two were sentenced to imprisonment with hard labour for 25 years and 5 years, respectively, and one is still awaiting his trial.

104. The total number of persons tried by the Criminal Court during the year was 114, as against 148 in 1907-8, and the results were as stated below:—

	1907-8.	1908-9.
Convicted	98	83
Acquitted	50	31
Total	148	114

105. The crimes of the persons convicted may be classified as follows:—

Murder	6
Attempt to murder	2
Other offences against the person	22
Offences against property	33
Offences against the good order of families ...	15
Miscellaneous offences	5
Total	83

106. Of the 1,721 cases instituted in the Civil Court, First Hall, 795 were for the determination of a point of fact or law, and 926 for the recovery of sums of money, amounting in the aggregate to £37,771.

107. In the Commercial Court 1,284 cases were instituted, of which 259 were for the determination of a point of fact or law, and 1,025 for the recovery of sums of money amounting in the aggregate to £55,802.

108. The business transacted in the Civil Court, Second Hall, was as follows:—

Applications disposed of	1,895
Secret wills deposited	34
Secret wills withdrawn	19
Deposits made	£878 18*s.* 2*d.*

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

109. The civil population on the 1st April, 1909, was estimated at 212,888, as against 209,974 on the corresponding date in 1908—an increase of 2,914.

110. The total number of births in the two years was as follows:—

	1907-8.	1908-9.
Males	4,333	4,392
Females	3,976	3,745
	8,309	8,137

111. In the latter year the birth-rate was 38·22 per mille, as compared with 39·57 per mille in 1907-8. The average birth-rate for the past 12 years was 38·66 per mille.

112. The total number of deaths was as follows:—

	1907-8.	1908-9.
Males	2,530	2,630
Females	2,369	2,400
	4,899	5,030

113. The death-rate of the civil population in 1908-9 was 23·4 per mille, as against 23·09 per mille in the previous year.

114. The excess of births over deaths was 2,691, and the excess of arrivals over departures 223.

115. The number of marriages in 1908-9 was 1,105, as against 1,220 in the preceding year.

116. The general state of the public health was, on the whole, good.

117. The following table shows the number of cases of infectious diseases reported, and the number of deaths from each disease, including cases and deaths in the fleet and garrison, during the past two years:—

	1907–8.		1908–9.	
	No. of cases.	No of deaths.	No. of cases.	No. of deaths.
Chicken-pox	84	—	58	—
Diphtheria	201	48	148	23
Enteric fever	86	23	137	30
Erysipelas	81	7	88	8
Febrile puerperal diseases	—	—	17	4
Influenza	114	6	440	16
Malarial fever	—°	—	9	—
Measles	1,931	82	406	29
Mediterranean fever	520	45	471	50
Scarlet fever	10	1	12	1
Small-pox	107	12	4	1
Tubercular phthisis	—*	—	155	69
Whooping cough	131	3	73	3
Total	3,265	227	2,018	234

* No cases were reported in 1907–8, the disease having been made a "notifiable disease," in 1908–9, under the Fourth Sanitary Ordinance.

118. There were 471 cases of Mediterranean fever, with 50 deaths, as against 520 cases, with 45 deaths, in the previous

year. The number of cases reported as having occurred among the civil population during 1908-9 was 463, of which 50 were attended with fatal results. There were, therefore, only eight cases in the fleet and garrison, none of which proved fatal. The number of cases reported during the year among the civil population was less by 38 than the number reported in 1907-8.

119. In the Central (Civil) Hospital, the use of unboiled milk has been discontinued since 1907-8, and a remarkable diminution in the number of cases contracted in that institution has been the result. The number of cases of Mediterranean fever contracted in the Civil Hospital in 1905-6 and 1906-7 was 23 and 11, respectively, while only five cases were reported in 1907-8, and none at all in 1908-9.

120. In May, 1908, a Committee was appointed to consider the steps to be taken for the suppression of Mediterranean fever among the civil population, whose report was received in January last. Regulations were drawn up on the general lines indicated by the Committee, and were brought in force on the 1st July, 1909.

121. Of the four cases of small-pox reported in the year under notice, one was a remnant of the outbreak of the previous year, and two were imported cases; the fourth case was that of a male nurse, who unfortunately contracted the disease while attending a patient in the Contagious Diseases Hospital. He died shortly afterwards.

122. There was a considerable abatement in the measles epidemic since last year; but there was a serious epidemic of influenza. All but one of the deaths from diphtheria occurred among the civil population. The percentage of deaths to the number of cases was 15·6, as against 23·3 in 1907-8, and 32·2 in 1906-7.

123. Owing to the ignorance or carelessness of parents in feeding and nursing their infants, infant mortality continues to be excessive. The number of deaths which occurred among children under 12 months was 1,824, or 224 per thousand births, while the number of those who died before reaching the age of five years was 2,569, or 316·57 per thousand births.

124. For the reason given above, enteritis is the disease which causes the greatest number of deaths amongst infants, the total number of children who have died of that disease in the past 10 years being 10,347, as shown below:—

	Number of deaths.
1899	1,014
1900	942
1901	932
1902-3	1,032
1903-4	1,001
1904-5	1,032
1905-6	1,249
1906-7	1,139
1907-8	1,017
1908-9	989
	10,347

125. The number of vaccinations performed during the year in the two islands was 2,521, of which 2,455 were successful.

126. The works carried out during the year in connection with the general drainage scheme were the completion of the main intercepting sewer and the construction of street sewers at Casal Zabbar (drained area 30,000 square yards); and the extension of street sewers in Birchircara, Rabato, Hamrun, and Casal Curmi (total drained area 6,010 square yards).

127. As already stated in paragraph 15 of this report, the works which were being carried out under the scheme for flushing the drainage system of Malta with sea-water were suspended in August, 1908, and there is, therefore, no progress to record for the year under review.

128. The Meteorological Returns for 1908-9 are given in the following table:—

Month.	Temperature.					Rainfall.		Winds.	
	Solar Maximum.	Shade Maximum.	Shade Minimum.	Mean Daily Range.	Mean Temperature.	No. of inches.	Mean percentage Humidity.	General Direction.	Average Force.
1908.									
April	136·0	77·7	48·0	8·5	58·2	0·810	72·7	N. & S.E.	3·0
May	144·8	86·0	54·6	12·1	68·4	—	71·1	S.E. & E.	2·6
June	149·2	86·0	62·0	13·0	73·8	0·120	67·7	S. & W.	1·8
July	149·0	92·1	68 0	11·9	76 9	—	66·7	N.W. & N.	2·1
August	157·2	90·1	69 5	11·6	77·9	—	76·8	N.N.W. & S.	2·2
September ...	148·7	89·1	64·7	8·9	74·3	0·638	69·9	N.W. & N.	1·8
October	143·0	79·3	62·0	9·4	69·9	1·876	71·8	S. & S.E.	2·2
November ...	138·9	77·0	51·0	10·3	62·6	1·326	74·4	W. & S.	1·8
December ...	135·2	66·0	46·8	7·9	55·3	7·343	76·3	S. & S.W.	2·4
1909.									
January... ...	134·6	62·1	42·0	7·8	51·9	4·344	78·9	W. & S.W.	3·4
February ...	127·6	60·4	43·1	7·5	49·8	2·237	77·2	N. & N.W.	3·3
March	135·2	63·7	47·0	8·1	56·1	0·937	79·2	W. & S.E.	3·0

129. The highest temperature in the shade was 92·1° on the 6th July, 1908, and the lowest 42·0° on the 21st January, 1909. The mean temperature for the year was 64·6°, as compared with 65·0° in 1907-8.

130. The mean temperature for the summer months (June, July, August and September) was 75·7°, or 5·2° lower than that of the same months in 1907. The mean temperature for the winter months (January, February and March) was 52·6°, 1·9° lower than that of the same months in 1907.

131. The total rainfall was 18·631 inches, or 0·848 inches below that of the previous year. The average rainfall for the last eight years was 20·773 inches.

132. The prevailing winds were N.W. on 89 days, N. on 42 days, S. on 42 days, and S.E. on 33 days. As in 1907-8, the average velocity per hour was 8·6.

133. The average number of hours of bright sunshine per day was 8·6.

134. The earthquake which destroyed Messina on the 28th December, 1908, was felt in Malta and Gozo, and the boom of the Milne Seismograph in the University was displaced by the shock. The sea-wave which followed the disturbance was very noticeable; it rose to a height of three feet at Sliema, and 4 feet 8 inches at the end of the Marsamuscetto Harbour. At Gozo the sea-wave reached a height of three feet.

VIII.—POSTAL, TELEGRAPH AND TELEPHONE SERVICES.

135. Details of the postal matter dealt with in the past two years are given in the following table:—

	1907–8.		1908–9.	
	Received.	Despatched.	Received.	Despatched.
Letters	1,758,770	2,109,601	1,805,973	1,991,353
Post-cards	222,664	383,877	230,711	364,910
Printed matter ...	915,642	363,363	999,024	383,045
Parcels	48,685	14,672	46,171	15,915
Total	2,945,761	2,871,513	3,081,879	2,755,223
	5,817,274		5,837,102	

136. There was, therefore, an increase of 19,828 in the total number of articles which passed through the post during the year under review.

137. The total number of mails received was 8,746 and the number despatched 5,488, as against 7,750 and 5,177, respectively, in 1907-8.

138. The total number of registered articles received and despatched was 139,665, as against 139,212, an increase of 453.

139. The total number of money orders issued and paid in the Colony was 11,826 (£39,312), as against 11,397 (£42,731), in the previous year, and the total number of postal orders issued and paid was 117,644 (£64,638) as against 116,786 (£65,681) in 1907-8.

140. The total number of parcels received and despatched during the year was 62,086, as against 63,357, showing a decrease of 1,271 parcels.

141. The total length of aerial telephone wires belonging to the military authorities open to the public on the 31st March, 1909 was 18½ miles; while the total length of wires belonging to the "Melita Telephone Exchange" on the same date was 731 miles.

IX.—MILITARY EXPENDITURE.

142. The total expenditure on the garrison (including the Militia) was £477,521, as compared with £468,244 in the previous year.

143. The expenditure on the garrison includes the usual Colonial contribution of £5,000 per annum.

X.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

144. On the 25th November, 1908, the S.S. "Sardinia" of the Ellerman Company left Malta for Alexandria with a crew of 39 and 162 passengers, of whom 150 were Arab or Moorish pilgrims for Mecca. Very shortly after the steamer had cleared the harbour, a fire broke out on board, which spread very rapidly, and several loud explosions occurred. The bridge having been blown up, the ship soon became unmanageable, and after circling round in a helpless condition for some time, she ultimately ran ashore on the rocks near Fort Ricasoli.

Owing to the fire and the heavy sea, the launches and boats sent out to render assistance were unable to approach the ship; but every effort was made to save those who had jumped into the sea, and out of a total of 201 passengers and crew, 104 were saved.

145. The appalling disaster which overtook Messina and Calabria in December last evoked deep sympathy in these islands. Assistance was promptly rendered by H.M. ships and the military authorities, and a fund was opened for the relief of the sufferers. A contribution was also received from the Mansion House Fund. The number of Maltese who suffered by the disaster was fortunately comparatively small.

147. On the retirement of the late Director of the Public Registry and Notary to Government, the opportunity was taken of effecting a re-organization of the Department. The appointment of Director of the Public Registry was separated from that of Notary to Government, and merged in the appointment of Archivist, which was then vacant; and the duties of the various officers were better distributed, with the result of a reduction in the staff and a considerable saving in expenditure.

Mr. G. Zammit was appointed Director of the Public Registry and Keeper of the Government and Notarial Archives, and Mr. M. L. Casolani was selected for the appointment of Notary to Government, the salary being in both cases fixed at £270 per annum.

There were no other important changes in establishment during the year.

148. The gross revenue of the railway for the year was £7,165, as against £8,420 in 1907-8, and the expenditure, including the cost of renewals (£1,245), was £7,368, as against £8,376 in the previous year.

149. The cost of the waterworks branch (exclusive of new works) was £13,290, and the revenue derived from water supplied and rent of meters was £19,586, as compared with £13,379 and £18,113, respectively, in 1907-8.

825,343,000 gallons of water were consumed, as against 590,205,000 gallons consumed in the previous year.

150. The revenue derived from the electric lighting installation was £18,759, against £17,421 in 1907-8; and the working expenses amounted to £9,683, as against £11,100 in the previous year. The decrease in the working expenses is attributable to the low price of coal during the year and to the facts that fewer house installations were laid, and that the amount expended on renewals was less than in 1907-8.

The capital outlay on the 31st March, 1909 was £72,242, and the net profit on the year's working was £7,339 (or 10·15 per cent. of the capital outlay).

The total number of units generated (exclusive of central station units) was 1,069,573, and the consumption of coal amounted to 3,124 tons, as compared with 1,070,720 units generated, and 3,168 tons of coal consumed in 1907-8.

151. The work done on the survey of the Island in 1908-9 was as follows:—

Survey with plane table	2,147·6	acres.
Traversing	93	miles
Sheets checked (2,531 acres)	6½	No.
,, published (2,582·5 acres) ...	5	,,
,, being printed at Chatham (1,182·1 acres)	3	,,

Social Condition of the People.

152. There is little change to record in the material condition of the people. There is little demand for labour, and the question of finding employment for those who are out of work is becoming a source of anxiety to the Government. The reduction of the fleet and garrison, and the fact that H.M. ships are now absent from Malta far more frequently, and for longer periods, than used formerly to be the case, have undoubtedly affected the prosperity of the Island, as a considerable portion of the men's pay is spent locally.

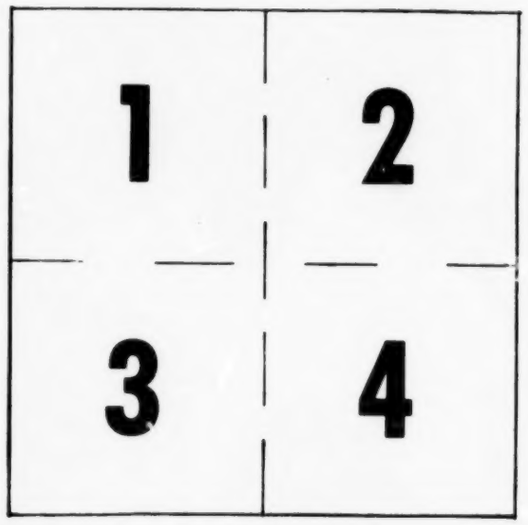
I have, &c.,

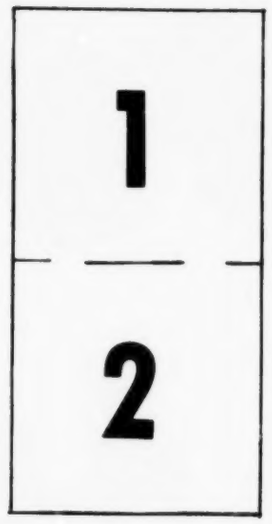
E. M. Merewether,

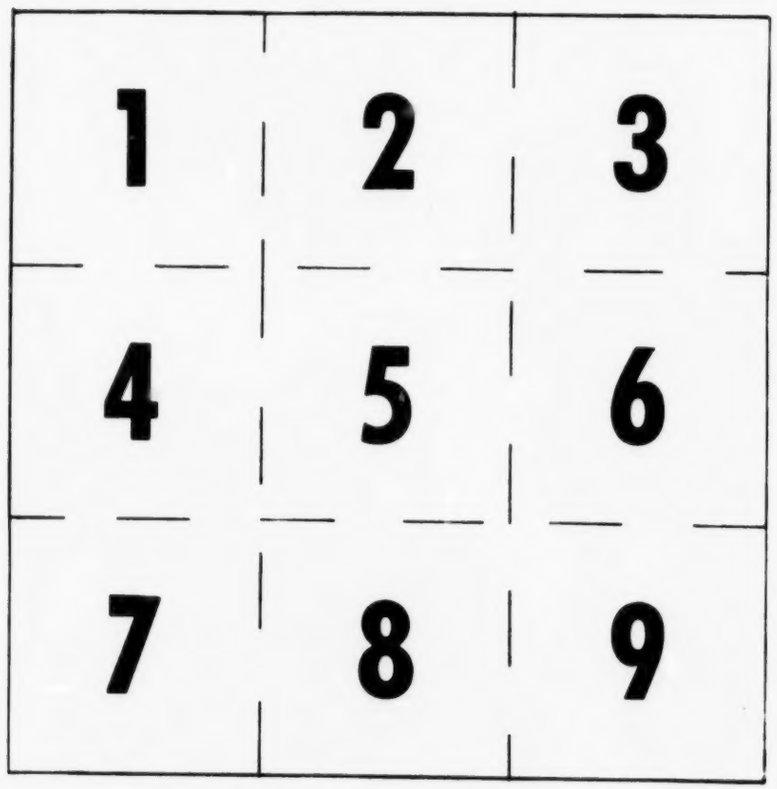
Lieutenant-Governor and
Chief Secretary to Government.

His Excellency
The Governor.

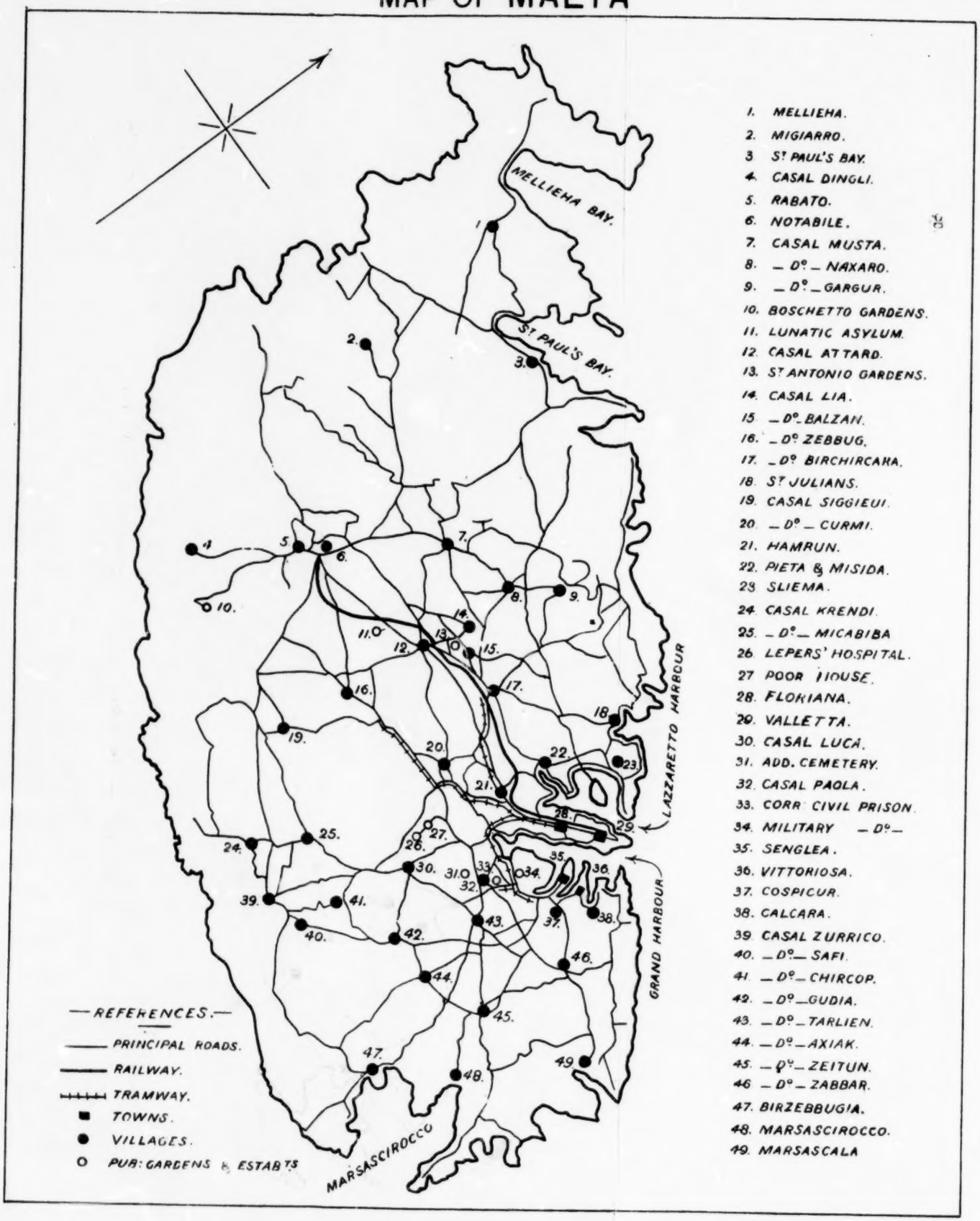
Maps on this order too large to be entirely included in one exposure are filmed clockwise beginning in the upper left hand corner, left to right and top to bottom as many frames as required. The following diagrams illustrate the method.





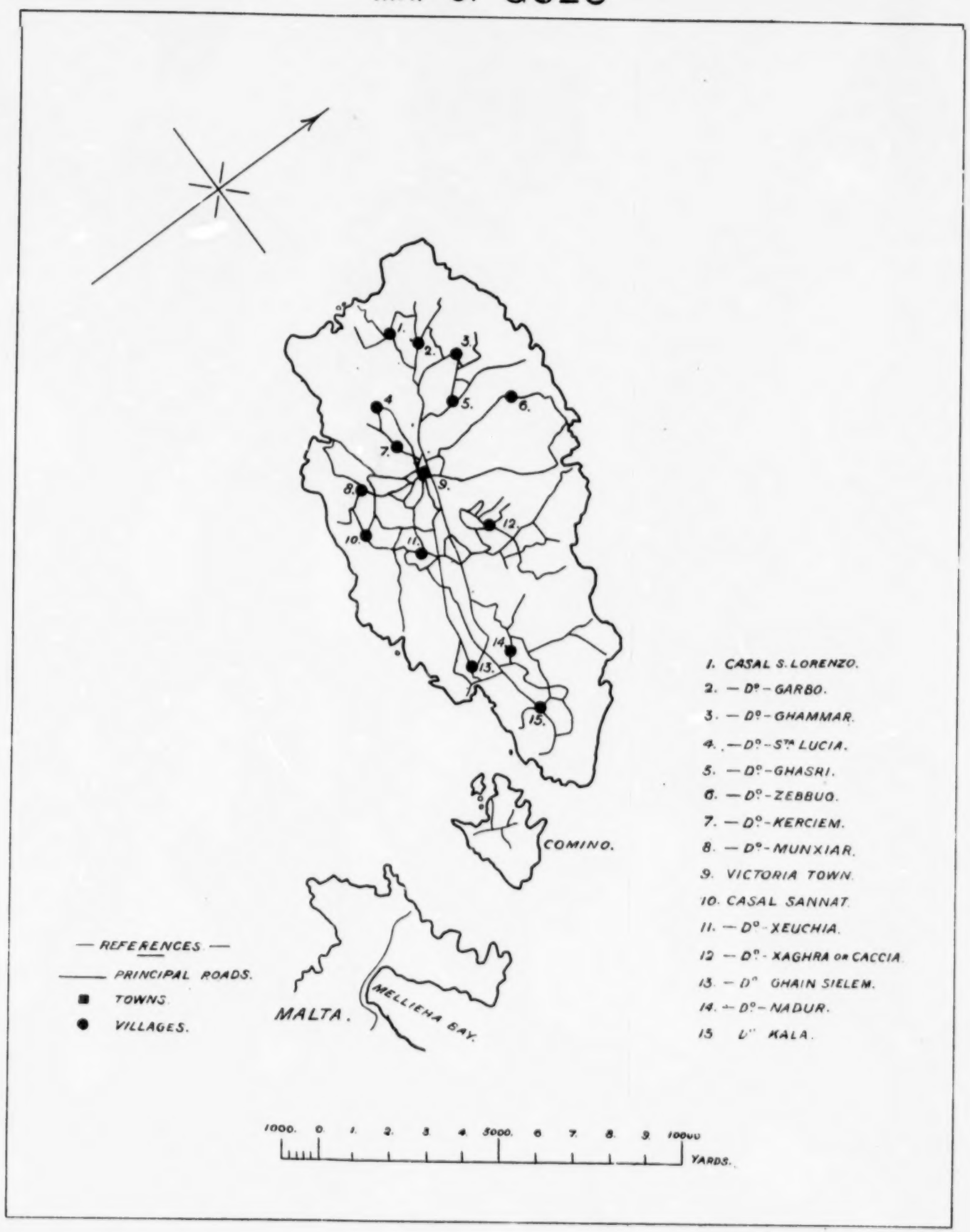


MAP OF MALTA



Ordnance Survey, Southampton, 1919.

MAP OF GOZO


1. CASAL S. LORENZO.
2. — Dº - GARBO.
3. — Dº - GHAMMAR.
4. — Dº - Stª LUCIA.
5. — Dº - GHASRI.
6. — Dº - ZEBBUG.
7. — Dº - KERCIEM.
8. — Dº - MUNXIAR.
9. VICTORIA TOWN.
10. CASAL SANNAT.
11. — Dº - XEUCHIA.
12 — Dº - XAGHRA or CACCIA.
13. — Dº GHAIN SIELEM.
14. — Dº - NADUR.
15 Dº KALA.
COMINO.
MALTA.
MELLIEHA BAY.
— REFERENCES —
PRINCIPAL ROADS.
TOWNS.
VILLAGES.
1000. 0 1. 2. 3. 4. 5000. 6 7. 8. 9. 10000
YARDS.

Ordnance Survey, Southampton, 1909.

COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following recent reports relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, &c.	Year.
576	Gambia	1907
577	St. Vincent	1907–1908
578	Turks and Caicos Islands	1907
579	St. Lucia	„
580	Fiji	„
581	Mauritius	„
582	Straits Settlements	„
583	Southern Nigeria	„
584	Imperial Institute	1906–1907
585	Barbados	1907–1908
586	Somaliland Protectorate	„
587	Trinidad and Tobago	„
588	Sierra Leone	1907
589	British Guiana	1907–1908
590	Grenada	1907
591	Leeward Islands	1907–1908
592	East Africa Protectorate	„
593	Bechuanaland Protectorate	„
594	Northern Nigeria	„
595	Basutoland	„
596	Swaziland	„
597	St. Helena	1908
598	Gibraltar	„
599	Falkland Islands	„
600	Uganda	1907–1908
601	Imperial Institute	1908
602	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	„
603	Ashanti	„
604	Ceylon	„
605	Weihaiwei	„
606	Seychelles	„
607	Jamaica	1907–1908
608	Colonial Survey Committee	1908–1909
609	Gambia	1908

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, &c.	Subject.
51	Southern Nigeria	Forest Administration.
52	South Africa	Native Education.
53	East Africa Protectorate	Veterinary Bacteriological Work, 1907–8.
54	Newfoundland	Governor's Visit to the Micmac Indians.
55	Cape Colony	Rietfontein Area.
56	Turks Islands	Salt Industry.
57	Uganda	Governor's Tour.
58	British Colonies	Fibres.
59	Northern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1906–7.

LONDON:
PRINTED FOR HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE,
By DARLING & SON, Ltd., 34-40, Bacon Street, E.

1909.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 642.

MALTA.

REPORT FOR 1909-10.

(For Report for 1908–9, *see* No. 610.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
July, 1910.

LONDON:
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By DARLING & SON, Ltd., 34-40, Bacon Street, E.

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1910.

[Cd. 4964–16.] *Price* 6*d*.

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Outline Maps—

Malta.

Gozo.

No. 642.

MALTA.

(For Report for 1908-9, *see* No. 610.)

THE GOVERNOR to the SECRETARY OF STATE.

The Palace,
Valletta,
9th June, 1910.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to forward, for your Lordship's information, the accompanying report by the Lieutenant-Governor and Chief Secretary to Government, on the Malta Blue Book for the year 1909-10.

I have, &c.,
LESLIE RUNDLE,
Governor.

The Right Honourable,
The Earl of Crewe, K.G.,
&c., &c., &c.

(16894—2.) Wt. 27349—887. 1125 & 85. 7/10. D & S. A 2

Lieutenant-Governor's Office,

Malta,

2nd June, 1910.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to submit the following report on the annual Blue Book for the year 1909-10.

I.—FINANCIAL.

The revenue for the year 1909-10 was £436,200 and the expenditure £458,013; there was, therefore, an excess of expenditure over revenue of £21,813. The total amount of duty paid on articles imported for His Majesty's Naval and Military Services, and subsequently refunded to the Imperial Government as drawback, was £23,468; and the actual revenue for the year was, therefore, £412,732, and the actual expenditure £434,545.

The surplus standing to the credit of the Government on the 1st April, 1910, was £115,157, as against £136,969 on the corresponding date of the previous year.

The estimated revenue for the year under review was £451,969, and the revenue collected £436,200—the receipts falling short of the estimate by £15,769.

There were excesses under seven heads, viz., Harbour and Quarantine Dues, Fees of Court, Fees of Office and Re-imbursements, Post Office, Electric Lighting, Miscellaneous Receipts, and Land Sales, amounting in the aggregate to £6,941; and deficits under the remaining heads amounting in the aggregate to £22,710, the net deficit being £15,769, as stated above.

The principal excesses were the following, viz., Fees of Office and Re-imbursements (£1,492), due mainly to the fact that the proceeds of the sale of meat undertaken by the Government during a strike of meat-vendors were accounted for under this item; there was also an increase in the total amount of fees levied on licences issued by the Superintendent of Police, the Superintendent of Public Health, and the Collector of Customs under Government Notice, No. 164, of the 3rd September, 1909.

Post Office (£1,147), due to an increase in international transit rates under a new method of calculation introduced in accordance with the Postal Convention of Rome, 1906.

Miscellaneous Receipts (£2,344) principally due to two extraordinary receipts, viz., £3,079 paid by the War Department for electric lamps and fittings in military buildings taken over from the Civil Government, and £400 received for a Customs launch which was sold.

Land Sales (£1,001), due chiefly to the sale of certain lands to the Military Authorities, and the payment during the year of an outstanding balance due to the local Government in respect of certain exchanges of property made with the War Department as far back as 1859.

The heads which show considerable deficits are: Customs (£14,396); Water Service (£2,867), and Rents (£3,246).

The reasons why the estimate was not realized under "Customs" are given in the next section of this report. The receipts fell short of the estimate under "Water Service" owing principally to decreased consumption of water by the Navy and private consumers, and to the fact that the Military Authorities elected to pay for water consumed by them at a uniform rate of 1*s.* per 1,000 gallons, instead of on a rising scale with a gratis allowance of three gallons per head per diem as hitherto. The estimate under "Rents" was not realised, owing to the fact that rents for certain Government tenements were not paid within the year.

Compared with the amount collected in the previous year the revenue for 1909-10 shows a shrinkage of £21,320.

The only important excess is under "Fees of Office and Re-imbursements" (£3,626), due to the causes mentioned in the paragraph above, while the principal decreases are under (i.) Customs (£10,600); (ii.) Water Supply (£1,864); (iii.) Rents (£3,970); (iv.) Interest (£1,561); (v.) Miscellaneous Receipts (£1,868); and (vi.) Land Sales (£5,583).

The decreases are chiefly due to the following causes, viz.:—

(i.) There was a net decrease of £5,952 under Grain, the falling-off under flour and semola amounting to £16,037, which was partly counterbalanced by an increase of £10,600 under Wheat. There were also decreases of £5,421 under Wines, due to the displacement of foreign wine by cheap local wine on which no excise duty is paid; and of £2,523 under Beer, due to a falling-off in the consumption of that beverage.

(ii.) There was a decrease in the consumption of water by His Majesty's ships and naval establishments and by private consumers.

(iii.) Certain rents were not paid within the year.

(iv.) There was a falling-off in the profits of the Savings Bank.

(v.) £2,000 was transferred from Deposits to Miscellaneous Receipts in the previous year.

(vi.) There was an extraordinary receipt of £6,575 in 1908-9, a site on the Grand Harbour having been sold to the Admiralty in that year.

The following table gives the revenue collected during the last five years:—

Year	Revenue.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£
1905–6	467,240	—	595
1906–7	513,594	46,354	—
1907–8	438,348	—	75,346
1908–9	457,520	19,172	—
1909–10	436,200	—	21,320

The total expenditure for 1909-10 was £458,012, made up as follows:

	£	£
Establishments:—		
Personal Emoluments ...	169,442	
Other Charges	116,940	
		286,382
Interest		21,336
Pensions		21,822
Military Expenditure		5,000
Miscellaneous Services		43,206
Public Works		80,266
		£458,012

The actual expenditure was £41,058 less than the estimate.

There were savings under all heads but two, viz., Interest and Burthens and Councils, under which the excess was unimportant. As in the previous year, the most important saving was under Public Works (£17,834), due mainly to the suspension of the work under the drainage flushing scheme.

As compared with the amount expended in 1908-9, the expenditure for 1909-10 shows an increase of £12,999.

The principal increases were under:—Post Office (£3,107), due to a change in the method of calculating transit rates, already referred to above; and Miscellaneous Services (£15,926), due, principally, to increases in the total amount refunded to the Imperial Government as drawback and in the amount of duty refunded on manufactured wheat exported; to the purchase of a revenue vessel for the Customs Department; to the payment during 1909-10 of the fees of the experts who visited Malta to report on the drainage flushing scheme; and to an increase in the amount expended on the acquisition of land for public purposes.

The principal decreases were under Customs (£3,609), due to savings effected in the Department; Water-works (£1,993), due to a decrease in the number of house services laid and meters provided; and Public Works (£4,846), due to the fact that new works were fewer, and the amount expended on maintenance was less, than in 1908-9.

The expenditure on Public Works during 1909-10 was £80,266, as against £84,154 in 1908-9.

The only change in taxation made during the year was the levy of a special rate of import duty (1*s.* per Imperial gallon) on Methylated Spirits and Varnish, under His Majesty's Order in Council of the 22nd November, 1909.

The assets and liabilities of the Government on the 31st M[illegible], 1910, as compared with those of the previous year were:—

Year.	Assets.	Liabilities.	Surplus.
	£	£	£
1908–9	797,295	660,326	136,969
1909–10	784,665	669,508	115,157
Decrease	12,630	—	21,812
Increase	—	9,182	—

The decrease in the assets is mainly due to the sale of securities and withdrawals from the bank to meet Treasury requirements; and the increase in the liabilities is due to a larger amount of deposits in the Savings Bank, consequent upon the introduction of new regulations offering greater advantages to depositors.

The amount of British coin in circulation in the Colony on the 31st March, 1910, is roughly estimated at £490,000.

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

Under the advice of Mr. McCarthy, arrangements were made during the year under review for the preparation of reliable statistics of the quantities and values of all goods (whether subject to import duty or not) which are imported or exported.

These arrangements, however, were not brought into operation until September, 1909, and it is, therefore, possible to give only the figures for the last six months of the year.

The total declared values of goods imported, whether dutiable or otherwise (exclusive of goods imported for transhipment) during the half-year ended the 31st March, 1910, was £1,172,180, made up as follows:—

	£
From the United Kingdom	481,426
,, British Possessions	19,881
,, Foreign Countries	670,873
	£1,172,180

The principal imports from the United Kingdom were:—Beer, £20,968; butter and butter substitutes, £10,894; potatoes, £20,601; spirits, £9,215; sugar, £8,671; fish (preserved), £13,082; cheese, £6,863; coal, £158,245; haberdashery, £8,111; flour and semola, £18,401; iron and steel manufactures, £11,028; apparel and slops, £8,094; cotton piece goods, £24,905; meat (preserved), £16,781.

From British Possessions:—Beef and mutton (frozen or preserved), £8,577; tea, £6,667.

From Foreign Countries: Bullocks, £42,853; swine, £10,541; cheese, £12,941; coffee, £9,542; wheat, £139,989; flour and semola, £21,200; lard, £7,974; sugar, £31,853; olive oil, £13,177; saggina, £9,060; pulse, £39,678; seeds, £10,299; wine, £29,744; petroleum, £14,820; tobacco (unmanufactured), £14,344; fish (fresh or preserved), £11,751; fruit (fresh or preserved), £15,503; charcoal, £9,406; iron and steel manufactures, £10,600; cotton piece goods, £12,227.

The following table shows the dutiable articles imported for local consumption in 1909-10 and the amount of duty collected on each article, as compared with the amount received in the previous year:—

Article.	1908–9.	1909–10.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Beer	21,874	19,351	—	2,523
Bullocks and other animals of the kind.	11,338	11,773	435	—
Grains—				
Barley	95	271	176	—
Indian corn	33	42	9	—
Inferior grain...	47	46	—	1
Saggina	1,930	1,742	—	188
Wheat	52,186	62,786	10,600	—
Damaged	4	301	297	—
Grain, Manufactured—				
Biscuits	754	454	—	300
Flour and semola	39,426	23,389	—	16,037
Malt and malt extract ...	725	231	—	494
Other kinds	321	311	—	10
Damaged	26	22	—	4
Horses	381	490	109	—
Meat, beef, or mutton	4,080	4,349	269	—
Methylated spirits*	—	10	10	—
Mules	72	74	2	—
Oil—				
Cotton seed	2,518	2,321	—	197
Olive oil and other edible oils	771	471	—	300
Petroleum	7,361	7,495	134	—
Potatoes	3,162	3,613	451	—
Pulse	5,492	5,042	—	450
Seeds	2,228	1,890	—	338
Sheep	59	18	—	41
Spirits	35,065	37,749	2,684	—
Sugar	6,577	6,827	250	—
Tobacco—				
Cigars and cigarettes...	3,406	3,416	10	—
Cavendish and negrohead ...	601	512	—	89
Other manufactured tobacco	448	973	525	—
Snuff	2	3	1	—
Unmanufactured*	7,917	7,748	—	169
Varnish containing spirit ...	—	13	13	—
Vinegar	114	99	—	15
Wines	44,942	39,521	—	5,421
Total	253,955	243,353	15,975	26,577

* Order in Council of 22nd November, 1909.

The principal increase was in the import of wheat (£10,600), due to the fact that owing to a very prosperous crop in Russia, large quantities of wheat were imported from Taganrog and milled in Malta, where the flour was sold cheaper than the foreign article, the prices of which ruled high. The increase in the importation of wheat was naturally counterbalanced by a decline in the importation of flour.

The principal decreases were the following:—

Beer (£2,523), due to a further shrinkage in local consumption, which is attributable to prolonged absences of the Fleet and to increased temperance among the troops and the civil population.

Flour and semola (£16,037), due partly, as already stated above, to the displacement of foreign flour by flour milled locally and partly to a more sparing use of bread (which, in times of plenty, is given as food to animals) and a larger consumption of potatoes—which, again, is indicative of a decline of prosperity among the lower classes.

Wines (£5,420), due to a further shrinkage in local consumption and the production of cheap local wine (both pure and artificial), on account of which a corresponding quantity of foreign wine is displaced.

The total declared value of dutiable goods exported (exclusive of transhipments) during the six months ended the 31st March, 1910, was £401,438, made up as follows:—

Destination.	Local produce.	Imported goods re-exported.	Total.
	£	£	£
To the United Kingdom	7,403	15,215	22,618
To British Possessions	1,225	1,105	2,330
To Foreign Countries	84,323	122,900	207,223
Bunker coals shipped on merchant vessels.	—	169,267	169,267
Total	92,951	308,487	401,438

The principal exports were:—

To the United Kingdom: bullion and specie, £8,176.

To Foreign Countries: horses, £2,071; fish, fresh or preserved, £9,292; spirits, £2,098; tea, £2,576; bullion and specie, £88,914.

The number of acres of land under cultivation was practically the same as in 1908-9, viz., 41,037; and the area of uncultivated land at the end of the year was estimated at 4,789 acres, as against 4,798 acres at the end of the previous year.

The number of holdings on the 31st March, 1910, was estimated at 11,000 (the average acreage being 3·7 acres per holding), as against 10,500 holdings, with an average acreage of 3·9 per holding on the 31st March, 1909.

Wheat, barley, and "mischiato" (a mixture of both) were grown on 13,465 acres, as against 13,456 acres in 1908-9, and the total yield in the past two years was as follows:—

Year.	Wheat.	Barley.	Mischiato.	Total.
	Qrs.	Qrs.	Qrs.	Qrs.
1908-9	20,846	8,811	7,640	37,297
1909-10	18,518	8,547	7,694	34,759
Total	39,364	17,358	15,334	72,056

The number of acres of land on which beans and other pulse were grown was 2,302, as compared with 2,206 in 1908-9, and the total yield was 3,913 quarters, as against 4,063 quarters in the previous year.

The year was not a propitious one for Malta potatoes. Although tubers were planted on 3,409 acres (as against 3,489 acres in 1908-9), the quantity obtained was only 199,460 cwts., as compared with 370,800 cwts. in the previous year, showing an unsatisfactory decline of 171,340 cwts., due to the fact that the crops suffered severely from potato blight. In the importation of potatoes there was an advance of 19,370 cwts., the figures being 142,602 cwts. (as against 123,232 cwts.), of which 81,551 cwts. were used as seed, 53,949 cwts. consumed locally, and 7,102 cwts. re-exported.

The area planted with onions was 653 acres, as against 607 acres in 1908-9, and the crop amounted to 3,820 tons, as against 3,575 tons in the previous year.

The year's yield of cummin seed, which was cultivated on 1,825 acres, was estimated at 4,216 cwts., as against 3,500 cwts. in 1908-9.

There was a considerable expansion in the orange trade, the total quantity of oranges, lemons, and mandarines gathered being 264,000 dozen, as compared with 122,622 dozen, showing an increase of 141,378 dozen in 1909-10.

The local production of cotton shows a slight improvement, 181,191 lbs. having been obtained during the year, as compared with 175,883 lbs. in 1908-9. The acreage under cotton was 793 acres (as against 823 acres in 1908-9); the average yield was 228 lbs. of lint per acre, and the average price obtained was 6½*d.* per lb., or 1*d.* per lb. more than the price obtained in 1908-9. The quantity of cotton exported from the Colony was 303,861 lbs., as against 13,906 lbs. in 1908-9, showing an extraordinary increase of 289,955 lbs., which the Inspector of Agriculture attributes to the fact that a considerable portion of the stock of previous years was held back in anticipation of an improvement in the foreign market. The cotton exported in 1909-10 was all sent to Italy or Germany.

The area under clover, barley (cut green), vetches, &c., was 11,539 acres, as against 11,280 acres in 1908-9, and the total

yield amounted to 350,640 loads of 10 bundles each, as compared with 370,911 loads in the preceding year.

As in previous years, useful work was carried out in the experimental farm, especially in the cultivation of potatoes, lettuce, parsnips, and radishes.

SHIPPING.

The number and tonnage of the steamers and sailing vessels which entered and cleared during the past two years were as follows:—

Year.	Steamers.				Sailing Vessels.				Total.	
	Entered.		Cleared.		Entered.		Cleared.			
	No	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.
1908-9.. ..	2,382	3,905,807	2,380	3,987 318	830	40,945	825	39,682	6,417	8,063,752
1909-10 ..	2,277	3,718,292	2,273	3,714,399	715	36,803	706	35,842	5,971	7,505,336
Decrease ..	105	277,515	107	272,919	115	4,142	119	3,840	446	558,416

The number of British ships which called at Malta during the year was 966, as against 1,103 in 1908-9, and their tonnage was 2,127,132, as against 2,436,702, giving a decrease of 137 in ships and 309,570 in tonnage.

The number of foreign ships was 1,311 (with a tonnage of 1,591,160), as against 1,279 ships (with a tonnage of 1,559,015). There was, therefore, an increase of 32 in foreign ships and of 32,145 in tonnage.

The nationality of foreign steamers which called at Malta during 1909-10 was as follows:—

Nationality.	No. of Ships.	Tonnage.
Austrian	552	412,145
Belgian	9	9 793
Danish	8	9,616
French	52	54,299
German	333	643,462
Greek	51	71,452
Dutch	50	52,489
Italian	235	312,757
Norwegian	6	4,162
Miscellaneous	15	20,985
Total	1,311	1,591,160

The following table gives the tonnage of British and foreign shipping which entered and cleared with cargoes in the last six months of 1909-10, as distinguished from vessels in ballast:—

—	British.	Foreign.	Total.
Entered	582,843	521,544	1,104,387
Cleared...	424,769	438,550	863,319
Total	1,007,612	960,094	1,967,706

Certain changes were introduced during the year in the system of recording the number and tonnage of vessels which enter and clear with cargoes, as distinguished from vessels in ballast, and the new system was brought into operation on the 1st October last.

The above table, therefore, gives only the number and tonnage of such vessels for the last six months of 1909-10, as any comparison with the figures for the corresponding period of the preceding year would be misleading.

The total revenue collected by the Government from tonnage dues was £6,158, as against £6,425, showing a decrease of £267 in the year under review.

The total shipping entered and cleared for the last five years was as follows:—

Year	Entered.		Cleared.	
	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.
1905–6	3,524	3,718,168	3,511	3,718,349
1906–7	3,344	3,645,906	3,338	3,651,918
1907–8	3,254	3,792,495	3,224	3,774,268
1908–9	3,212	4,036,752	3,205	4,027,000
1909–10	2,992	3,755,095	2,979	3,750,241

III.—LEGISLATION.

Ten Ordinances were passed by the Council of Government during the year under review, of which only Nos. III., VII., and VIII. of 1909 and No. II. of 1910 are of sufficient importance to be specially noticed in this report.

Ordinance No. III. of 1909 amends Ordinance No. I. of 1904, and empowers the Head of the Government to make regulations regarding the working of wireless telegraphy on board merchant ships within local waters.

Ordinance No. VII. of 1909 repeals and re-enacts, with numerous amendments, the Customs Laws of the Colony. In a report made in August, 1908, on the re-organization of the Customs Department, certain modifications of the existing laws were suggested by Mr. R. H. McCarthy, C.M.G., and the Ordi-

nance, which was drafted in consultation with him, was passed with a view to giving effect to his recommendations.

Ordinance No. VIII. of 1909 amends the Criminal Code, and contains important provisions dealing, amongst other things, with the responsibility of parents and guardians for offences committed by their children and wards; the punishment of persons who publicly instigate the commission of criminal offences; the suppression of evidence; the unlawful possession of base coins; the protection of women and girls; the limits within which it is permissible to act in self-defence, &c.

Ordinance No. II. of 1910 amends Ordinance No. I. of 1874 (which deals with prevention of accidents at sea and the protection of maritime trade), and lays down the procedure to be followed in wreck enquiries.

IV.—EDUCATION.

The number of day schools in Malta and Gozo was 100, as shown below:—

—	Malta.	Gozo.	Total.
Boys	29	9	38
Girls	30	9	39
Infants...	8	1	9
Drawing (boys)	5	—	5
„ (girls)	5	—	5
Wood-carving	3	—	3
Sunday School (Secular instruction) ...	1	—	1
Total	81	19	100

The number of night schools in the two islands remained the same as in the previous year, viz., 38 (33 in Malta and 5 in Gozo).

The number of children admitted to the day schools was 7,141, and the number of those who left school was 5,227, as compared with 6,718 and 3,357, respectively, in 1908-9, while the number of pupils admitted to the night schools was 3,086, as against 2,984 in the previous year.

Of the pupils who left school, 42 (14 boys and 28 girls) were appointed monitors and monitresses in the Government Schools, 21 passed into the Lyceum, 21 were successful at the competitive examinations held during the year for apprenticeships in His Majesty's dockyard, 23 were admitted to the Archiepiscopal Seminary in Malta, while 3 obtained employment in the Public Works Department.

The number who left school during the year before reaching Standard III., was 2,572, as against 2,813 in 1908-9.

The attendance in the day schools on the 1st September, 1909, was 18,683, as against 17,968 on the same date in the previous

year. The night schools were attended by 2,341 pupils at the beginning of the scholastic year (1st October, 1909), as against 2,248 on the corresponding date in 1908. The total number of pupils in the day and night schools (including the Sunday School) at the beginning of the scholastic year was 21,066, as against 20,262 in 1908.

The average annual enrolment was 19,109 and the average annual attendance 15,733, as against 18,445 and 15,149, respectively, in 1908-9. The percentage of attendance to enrolment was 82·3, as against 82·1 in 1908-9. The highest enrolment was 22,605 and the lowest 16,032, as against 21,600 and 15,291 in the previous year.

Out of 5,482 parents or guardians who were invited to select the language of colloquial instruction for their children or wards on their being admitted to the schools or on their being promoted to Standards I. and II., 96·3 per cent. chose English and 3·7 per cent. chose Italian, as against 96·5 per cent. for English and 3·5 per cent. for Italian in 1908-9.

In the case of admissions or promotions to Standard III., out of 2,868 parents or guardians who selected the secondary language of instruction for their children or wards, 99·1 per cent. chose English, and 0·9 per cent. Italian, as against 98·9 per cent. for English and 1·1 per cent. for Italian in the previous year.

The number of parents or guardians of pupils attending the higher standards who made a choice of the language in which they desired their children to be examined was 2,326, as against 2,185 in 1908-9. Of these, 1,736, or 74·6 per cent., selected English only, 573, or 24·7 per cent., chose English and Italian, and 17, or 0·7 per cent., selected Italian only. The corresponding percentages in the previous year were 71·2, 27·8, and 1, respectively.

The number of pupils borne on the rolls on the day of examination was 15,676, as against 15,076 in 1908-9. The number individually examined was 14,830, of whom 13,014, or 87·8 per cent. obtained passes, with an average percentage of 82·4 marks, as against 14,155 pupils examined in 1908-9, of whom 12,458, or 88 per cent., had passes, with an average percentage of 80·3 marks.

The strength of the teaching staff during the year was as follows:—

Headmasters	40
Headmistresses	51
Assistant teachers (males)	220
Monitors	34
Assistant teachers (females)	290
Monitresses	94
Teachers of drawing, dress-cutting, lace making	10
Total	739

One male student was sent to St. Mary's Training College, Hammersmith, for training, and one female student to the Training College, St. Charles's Square, London. A satisfactory report was received on the first year's work of the students who were sent to the Bristol and St. Charles's Training Colleges in 1908-9.

Twenty male and seven female teachers attended a special preparatory training class for young teachers desirous of proceeding to England for training, which was started in November, 1909.

The total cost of the Elementary Schools was £27,533, as against £26,935 in 1908-9. Of the expenditure in 1909-10, £23,684 was for "personal emoluments" and £3,848 for "other charges," as against £23,093 and £3,842, respectively, in the previous year.

The average cost per pupil, calculated on the number of pupils on the rolls at the beginning of the scholastic year, was 26*s.* 1*d.*, calculated on the average enrolment, 28*s.* 9*d.*, and calculated on the average annual attendance, 35*s.*; as against 26*s.* 7*d.*, 29*s.* 3*d.*, and 35*s.* 7*d.*, respectively, in 1908-9.

As the scholastic year in the University, Lyceum, and Secondary School for Girls commences in October, the returns for these institutions are a year behindhand. An average of 213 students attended the Secondary School for Girls in the year 1908-9, as against 263 in the preceding year. The average percentage of attendance was 85; in the preceding year it was 81.

The average daily attendance of the Secondary School for Boys, Gozo, was 64, as against 44 in the previous year, and the percentage of attendance was 93, as against 89 in the previous year.

The daily average number of students in the Lyceum was 602, as against 594 in 1907-8, while the percentage of attendance was 83, as against 87. The number of boys admitted in 1908-9 was 64, out of 162 candidates, as against 103, out of 200 candidates, in the previous year. At the annual examinations held in June, 377 students were examined in English and 371 in Italian, and the number of passes in English was 353, or 94 per cent., and in Italian, 285, or 77 per cent. The average number of students in attendance at the University was 163, against 165 in the previous year.

107 candidates entered for the Matriculation Examination held in 1909. Of these, 65 were successful.

The average cost of education per student was as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
Secondary School (Girls)	2	4	10
,, ,, (Boys)	5	16	3
Lyceum	5	7	9
University	24	6	2

while the average fees paid by the students in the different institutions are as follows:—

	£ s. d.
Secondary School (Girls)	1 19 11
,, ,, (Boys)	Nil.
Lyceum	1 10 0
University	6 15 0

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

The total number of persons admitted into the hospitals and maintained in the other charitable institutions of Malta and Gozo (exclusive of staff) was 7,309, as against 6,982 in 1908-9. In addition to these, 118,582 persons were attended by the District Medical Officers at the Government Dispensaries or at their own homes, as against 116,059 in the previous year; and pecuniary assistance amounting in the aggregate to £3,509 was given to 4,605 persons, as against £3,465 given to 2,459 persons in 1908-9.

The total cost of the charitable institutions in the two islands (exclusive of works) was £67,818, as against £67,861 in 1908-9.

The following table gives details regarding the number of persons treated in hospitals, poor-houses, and asylums in the two islands during 1909-10:—

—	No. of Inmates on 1st April, 1909.	No. of admissions during the year.	Total.	No. discharged.	No. of deaths.	Remaining on 1st April, 1910.
Hospitals—						
Central Hospital	236	3,220	3,456	2,940	277	239
Seamen's Hospital ...	6	57	63	51	7	5
Santo Spirito Hospital ...	76	419	495	364	51	80
Connaught Hospital ...	—	343	343	220	62	61
Manoel Hospital	8	73	81	66	7	8
Gozo Hospital	49	438	487	384	64	39
Contagious Diseases Hospital, Gozo.	—	20	20	18	1	1
Poor-Houses—						
Malta Poor-House ...	990	217	1,207	56	159	992
Gozo Poor-House ...	146	43	189	7	35	147
Asylums—						
Lunatic Asylum	714	141	855	70	46	739
Orphan Asylum	100	13	113	13	—	100
Total	2,325	4,984	7,309	4,189	709	2,411

The number of depositors in the Savings Bank on the 31st March, 1910, was 6,698, and the amount standing to their credit was £538,668, of which £528,913 was invested in British and other securities.

The deposits made during the year amounted to £148,150 and the withdrawals to £136,524, as against £95,284 and £127,080, respectively, in 1908-9.

The expenses of management and the interest credited to depositors amounted to £10,728, while the revenue derived from interest and invested funds, unappropriated interest, and sale of pass books was £16,354, leaving a net profit of £5,626.

VI.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

The nominal strength of the Police Force on the 31st March, 1910, was 35 officers and 500 non-commissioned officers and men, and the actual strength was 30 officers and 491 non-commissioned officers and men.

The total number of licences issued or renewed by the Police in 1909-10 was 2,652, as against 2,705 in the previous year; and the total amount collected by the Government in respect of licences for the sale of wines and spirits was £3,383, as against £3,438 in 1908-9.

The number of surety-bonds signed under the Aliens Law was 201. The greater part of the immigrants were Sicilians, who came to Malta in search of employment as shoemakers, barbers, tailors, carpenters, artistes, &c. The number of female immigrants [illegible]9, of whom 75 were registered as housewives. Sixty-t[illegible]ndesirable aliens were expelled during the year, as again[illegible]9 in 1908-9.

The following table gives the total number of persons imprisoned in 1909-10:—

—	Remaining on 1st April, 1909.	Admitted in 1909-10	Total.	Discharged.	Died.	Remaining on 31st March, 1910.
Malta—						
Criminal prisoners ...	167	6,432	6,599	6,328	—	271
Debtors	2	17	19	15	—	4
Gozo—						
Criminal prisoners ...	3	1,032	1,035	993	—	42
Debtors	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	172	7,481	7,653	7,336	—	317

The number of persons admitted during the year was 7,481, as against 6,003 in 1908-9.

The following table shows the total number of males and females imprisoned in the Malta and Gozo prisons during the past two years:—

—	1908–9.			1909–10.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Malta—						
From Local Courts	4,623	486	5,109	5,793	653	6,446
„ Courts martial	4	—	4	2	—	2
„ Consular Courts	1	—	1	1	—	1
Gozo—						
From Local Courts	865	24	889	998	34	1,032
Total	5,493	510	6,003	6,794	687	7,481

The general health of the prisoners in the Malta Prison was good. Fourteen prisoners were admitted to the prison infirmary during the year, and the daily average on the sick list, including prisoners on medical diet not admitted into hospital, was 19·10.

The number of prison offences was 816, as against 672 in 1908-9, and the punishments inflicted were as follows:—

Admonished	181
Solitary confinement on ordinary diet ...	210
„ „ bread and water ...	423
Reduction in class	2
Total	816

The increase of 144 in the number of offences was due to a stricter enforcement of discipline, and the fact that the daily population in the prison was greater than in 1908-9.

The prisoners were employed on various kinds of work, *e.g.*, pumping water, cultivation of prison lands, and attending on sick prisoners; and those who knew a trade were employed as tailors, mat and broom makers, joiners, masons, painters, shoemakers, plasterers, stainers, tinmen, and plumbers.

The receipts of the Malta Prison were as follows:—

	£
Naval convicts	82
Sale of prison manufactures	185
„ produce of prison lands	162
	£429

as against £486 in 1908-9.

The total cost of the prisons for 1909-10 (exclusive of the Valletta Lock-up) was £4,177, viz., Malta Prison, £4,021; Gozo Prison, £156.

The total number of offences reported to the Police in the past two years is shown below, viz.:—

	1908-9.	1909-10.
Offences against the person... ...	6,862	7,281
Offences against the good order of families	195	108
Offences against property	2,860	3,598
Other offences	26,332	23,023
Total	36,249	34,010

showing a net decrease of 2,239 offences in 1909-10.

The total number of offences dealt with by the Courts of Judicial Police in Malta and Gozo was 24,134, made up as follows:—

—	Malta.	Gozo.	Total.
Crimes	764	80	844
Contraventions	20,895	2,395	23,290
Total	21,659	2,475	24,134

The number of offences not dealt with by the Courts was, therefore, 9,876, or 29 per cent. of the total number reported, while the number of crimes the perpetrators of which were not discovered was 248, or 21 per cent. of the total number reported, which was 1,171.

The total number of persons summoned before the Magistrates was 24,134, as against 21,852 in 1908-9, an increase of 2,282. They were dealt with as follows:—

Summarily convicted	23,133
Committed for trial	138
Acquitted	291
Discharged for want of evidence or in default of prosecution	572
Total	24,134

The punishments inflicted on the persons who were summarily convicted were as follows:—

Imprisoned	418
Fined	18,073
Fined and imprisoned	20
Bound over	216
Admonished	4,406
Total	23,133

The number of persons admonished was 4,406, or 14 per cent. of the number summarily convicted, as against 19 per cent. in the previous year.

There were three cases of murder during the year, the perpetrators of which were discovered in each case. One was sentenced to nine years' hard labour, another to 20 years' hard labour, while the third was committed to the Lunatic Asylum.

The total number of persons tried by the Criminal Court during the year was 138, as against 114 in 1908-9, and the results were as stated below:—

	1908-9.	1909-10.
Convicted	83	92
Acquitted	31	46
	114	138

The crimes of the persons convicted may be classified as follows:—

Murder	3
Attempt to murder	4
Other offences against the person	27
Offences against property	28
Offences against the good order of families ...	19
Miscellaneous offences	11
	92

Of the 1,659 cases instituted in the Civil Court, First Hall, 764 were for the determination of a point of fact or law, and the rest for the recovery of sums of money, amounting in the aggregate to £22,845.

In the Commercial Court, 1,299 cases were introduced, of which 266 were for the determination of a point of fact or law, and the rest for the recovery of sums of money, amounting in the aggregate to £41,618 7*s*.

The business transacted in the Civil Court, Second Hall, was as follows:—

Applications disposed of	2,079
Secret wills deposited	31
Secret wills withdrawn	12
Deposits made	£3,431 15*s*. 9d.

The number of cases pending in the Superior Courts on the 31st March, 1910, was 1,289, as shown below:—

Civil Court First Hall (two Judges)	796
Commercial Court (one Judge)	276
Court of Appeal (three Judges)	137
,, (appeals from Inferior Courts in Civil Cases, one Judge)... ...	10
,, (appeals from Inferior Courts in Criminal Cases, one Judge) ...	25
Criminal Court (one Judge)	45
Total	1,289

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

The civil population on the 1st April, 1910, was estimated at 215,879, as against 212,888 on the corresponding date in 1909, an increase of 2,991.

The total number of births in the two years was as follows:—

	1908-9.	1909-10.
Males	4,392	4,137
Females	3,745	3,650
	8,137	7,787

In the latter year the birth-rate was 36·07 per mille, as compared with 38·22 per mille in 1908-9. The average birth-rate for the last 12 years was 38·42 per mille.

The total number of deaths was as follows:—

	1908-9.	1909-10.
Males	2,630	2,568
Females	2,400	2,350
	5,030	4,918

The death-rate of the civil population in 1909-10 was 22·57 per mille, as against 23·4 per mille in the previous year.

Deducting from the total number of births 256 still-born children and an excess of 135 in births over deaths in military families, the net excess of births over deaths was 2,524, and the excess of arrivals over departures, including an excess of 89 in military families, was 467.

The number of marriages in 1909-10 was 988, as against 1,105 in the preceding year.

The following table shows the number of cases of infectious diseases reported and the number of deaths from each disease, including cases and deaths in the fleet and garrison during the past two years:—

	1908–9.		1909–10.	
	No. of cases.	No. of deaths.	No. of cases.	No of deaths.
Chicken-pox	58	—	126	—
Diphtheria	148	23	65	2
Enteric fever	137	30	549	71
Erysipelas	88	8	83	6
Febrile puerperal diseases	17	4	16	6
Influenza	440	16	120	4
Malarial fever	9	—	25	—
Measles	406	29	6	—
Mediterranean fever	471	50	468	53
Scarlet fever	12	1	9	—
Small-pox	4	1	12	1
Tubercular phthisis	155	69	307	194
Whooping cough	73	3	654	20
Total	2,018	234	2,440	357

There has been a satisfactory decrease in the number of cases of diphtheria, which is attributable mainly to the promptitude with which measures are taken under the sanitary laws to isolate patients, prevent contacts, and otherwise stamp out the disease in any locality where cases occur.

There was also a considerable drop in the incidence of influenza during the year under review, as compared with 1908-9; while there was, fortunately, no recurrence of the epidemic of measles. Of the six cases reported in 1909-10, none proved fatal, whereas in the previous year there were 406 cases with 29 deaths.

Whooping cough was accountable for no less than 654 cases with 20 deaths, as compared with 73 cases and only three deaths in 1908-9.

It will be noticed that enteric fever was responsible for 71 deaths, out of 549 cases, as compared with 30 deaths out of 137 cases in the previous year. This is mainly due to an outbreak which occurred during February and March, 1910, and at one time threatened to assume alarming proportions, but which, fortunately, rapidly subsided owing to the measures taken by the Government, and practically ceased altogether in the course of the following month.

The number of cases of Mediterranean fever was practically the same as in the previous year, viz., 468 cases (with 53 deaths), as against 471 cases (with 50 deaths) in 1908-9. In the year under review, five cases were reported as having occurred among the men of the fleet and garrison.

I regret that there is no improvement to record with regard to the death-rate among children, which continues to be excessive. The number of deaths which occurred among children under 12 months was 1,888, or 242 per thousand births, while the number of those who died before reaching the age of five years was 2,532, or 325·16 per thousand births.

As pointed out in previous reports, this excessive infant mortality is due mainly to neglect or ignorance, or both, on the part of the mothers of the most elementary rules with regard to the feeding, clothing, and cleanliness of children of tender age.

A disease which is of very frequent occurrence amongst infants, owing to improper feeding, is enteritis, 10,407 children having died of that disease in the past ten years, as shown below:—

	No. of deaths.
1900	942
1901	932
1902-3	1,032
1903-4	1,001
1904-5	1,032
1905-6	1,249
1906-7	1,139
1907-8	1,017
1908-9	989
1909-10	1,074
	10,407

The number of vaccinations performed during the year in the two islands was 8,696, of which 8,410 were successful, as against 2,521 and 2,455, respectively, in 1908-9.

The following works were carried out during the year under the general drainage scheme, viz.:—

Constructing street sewers at Zabbar (drained area, 90,000 square yards);

Constructing a portion of the intercepting sewer between Victoria, Gozo, and the sea;

Extending street sewers at Rabato, Hamrun, St. Julian's and Casal Curmi (total drained area, 12,800 square yards).

The works in connection with the drainage flushing scheme, which were suspended in August, 1908, have not yet been resumed, and there is therefore no progress to record for the year under review.

The meteorological returns for 1909-10 are given in the following table:—

Month.	Temperature.					Rainfall.		Winds.	
	Solar Maximum.	Shade Maximum.	Shade Minimum.	Mean Daily Range.	Mean Temperature.	No. of inches.	Mean percentage Humidity.	General Direction.	Average Force.
1909.	°F.	°F.	°F.	°F.	°F.				
April	141·1	72·0	47·7	8·9	59·2	1·565	81·4	N.W. & W.	3·0
May	143·0	77·9	51·6	10·3	65·0	0·770	73·3	E. & N.W.	2·6
June	145·0	85·6	61·1	10·6	71·2	0·075	72·9	N. & S.	2·2
July	145·0	91·4	64·0	10·9	74·3	Nil	69·8	W. & S.	2·5
August	147·6	91·4	67·5	10·5	76·5	0·066	71·9	W. & N.W.	2·1
September ...	154·2	93·0	61·2	10·6	74·5	0·083	76·2	N.W. & E.	2·3
October	140·2	81·3	59·5	8·7	68·9	0·319	75·9	N.W. & N.	2·3
November ...	134·5	73·8	49·0	14·1	58·3	3·273	73·9	W. & N.W.	1·9
December ...	130·0	68·9	47·0	8·3	57·8	2·892	79·8	W. & S.	1·9
1910.									
January... ...	131·4	64·6	42·2	7·1	54·2	4·790	76·5	W. & S.W.	3·3
February ...	137·8	61·7	44·5	6·3	53·1	3·330	82·7	W. & N.W.	2·6
March	133·1	67·1	46·5	14·0	53·5	1·280	77·5	W. & N.W.	2·2

The highest temperature in the shade was 93° on the 12th September, 1909, and the lowest 42°·2 on the 24th January, 1910. The mean temperature for the year was 63°·9, as compared with 64°·6 in 1908. The mean temperature for the summer months (June, July, August, and September) was 74°·1, or 1°·6 lower than that of the same period in 1908. The mean temperature for the winter months (January, February, and March) was 53°·6, or 1° higher than that for 1908.

The total rainfall was 27·443 inches, or 8·812 inches above that of the previous year. The average rainfall for the last nine years was 21·625 inches. The prevailing winds were N.W. on 69 days, W. on 65, and S. on 36. The average velocity of wind per hour was 8·3 miles. The average number of hours of bright sunshine per day was 7·1, or 1·5 below the average for 1908.

In accordance with certain recommendations made by the British Meteorological Office, "normal climatological stations," or stations of the second order, have been established in various parts of Malta (viz., Notabile, Floriana, Lia, Zeitun, Zurrico, and Naxaro) with a view to securing absolute accuracy in the observations. These have hitherto been taken at the University, in the heart of Valletta, which is by no means a favourable position for taking reliable observations.

The table given above does not, however, incorporate the results of the observations at the normal stations, where readings have been taken only since the 1st January last; but in future reports the meteorological return will show the mean of the readings taken at all the stations.

VIII.—POSTAL AND TELEPHONE SERVICES.

Details of the postal matter dealt with in the past two years are given in the following table:—

	1908–9.		1909–10.	
	Received.	Despatched.	Received.	Despatched.
Letters	1,805,973	1,991,353	1,754,142	2,017,405
Post-cards	230,711	364,910	207,194	315,718
Printed matter ...	999,024	383,045	921,219	349,843
Parcels	46,171	15,915	46,793	15,937
Total	3,081,879	2,755,223	2,929,348	2,698,903
	5,837,102		5,628,251	

There was, therefore, a decrease of 208,851 in the total number of articles which passed through the post during the year under review. This shrinkage is attributable to the present commercial depression.

The total number of mails received was 9,381, and the number despatched 6,244, as against 8,746 and 5,488, respectively, in 1908-9.

The total number of registered articles received and despatched was 143,153, as against 139,665, an increase of 3,488.

The total number of money orders issued and paid in the Colony was 11,726 (£40,003 19*s.* 1*d.*), as against 11,826 (£39,811 11*s.* 7*d.*) in the previous year; and the total number of postal orders issued and paid was 115,268 (£64,482 18*s.* 10*d.*), as against 117,644 (£64,638) in 1908-9.

The total number of parcels received and despatched during the year was 62,730, as against 62,086, showing an increase of 644 parcels.

The total length of aerial telephone wires belonging to the military authorities open to the public on the 31st March, 1910, was 18½ miles, while the total length of wires belonging to the "Melita Telephone Exchange," on the same date, was 742 miles.

IX.—MILITARY EXPENDITURE.

The total expenditure on the garrison (including the Militia) was £513,636, as compared with £477,521 in the previous year. This expenditure includes the usual Colonial contribution of £5,000 per annum.

X.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

The principal event of the year was the visit of Their Majesties King Edward VII. and Queen Alexandra, who arrived on board the Royal yacht "Victoria and Albert" on the 21st April, and were on this occasion accompanied by Her Imperial Majesty the Dowager Empress of Russia and Her Royal Highness Princess Victoria. Their Majesties, who were everywhere respectfully and cordially received by the population, remained in Malta till the 25th April, and held a reception at the Valletta Palace which was at the time occupied by Their Royal Highnesses the Duke and Duchess of Connaught. On the afternoon of the 22nd, His Majesty was graciously pleased to open the Connaught Hospital at Notabile. This building was formerly used as a military sanatorium, and was equipped as a subsidiary hospital for civilians by the generosity of His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught, who graciously consented to allow it to be named after him.

The Island was also honoured by a visit from Their Imperial Majesties the German Emperor and Empress, who arrived on board the Imperial yacht "Hohenzollern" on the 10th May and left on the following day.

The only political event of any importance during the year was the proclamation in the Colony of His Majesty's Letters Patent of the 17th December, 1909, amending the Letters Patent of the 3rd June, 1903, relating to the Constitution of Malta.

The principal change introduced by the new Letters Patent was the admission into the Executive Council of two of the Elected Members of the Council of Government.

The principal changes in establishments during the year were the following:—

Sir Henry Fane Grant, G.C.V.O., K.C.B., relinquished the Administration of these Islands in August, 1909, and the Government was administered by the undersigned till the arrival of His Excellency General Sir Henry Macleod Leslie Rundle, K.C.B., K.C.M.G., D.S.O., on the 30th September, 1909.

On the death of Judge Baron Sir Alessandro Chapelle, Kt., LL.D., in March, 1909, Dr. G. B. Mifsud, Senior Magistrate of Judicial Police and Professor of Criminal Law in the University, was raised to the Bench, and Dr. L. A. Randon was appointed Professor of Criminal Law.

The Chair of Midwifery in the University having become vacant through the death of Prof. S. Grech, Dr. G. Debono was appointed Professor in that subject and Accoucheur and Teacher of Practical Midwifery in the Central Hospital.

In May, 1909, Mr. Edward Casolani, Assistant Secretary to Government for Gozo, retired from the service, under the age clause of the Pensions Ordinance, and was succeeded in that appointment by Mr. W. C. Millard.

In December, 1909, Mr. Carmelo Pace Bardon was appointed Receiver-General and Director of Contracts, in succession to Mr. W. Casolani, who retired on reaching the age of 65.

A vacancy in the Judicial Bench having occurred in January last, owing to the death of Judge Mifsud, Dr. S. Micallef, Assistant Crown Advocate, was appointed Judge, and Professor M. A. Refalo, LL.D., Professor of Commercial Law in the University, was appointed Assistant Crown Advocate.

The gross revenue of the railway for the year was £6,864, as against £7,165 in 1908-9, and the expenditure, including additions and renewals (£1,253) was £7,460, showing a net loss of £596 on the year's working. In addition to the expenditure mentioned above, £197 was expended on the railway technical school.

The cost of the Water-works Branch of the Public Works Department (exclusive of new works) was £12,847, and the rent derived from water supplied, laying house-services and rent of meters, was £17,723, as compared with £13,290 and £19,586, respectively, in 1908-9.

669,877,000 gallons of water were consumed, as against 825,343,000 gallons consumed in the previous year.

The revenue derived from the electric lighting installation was £19,514, against £18,759 in the previous year.

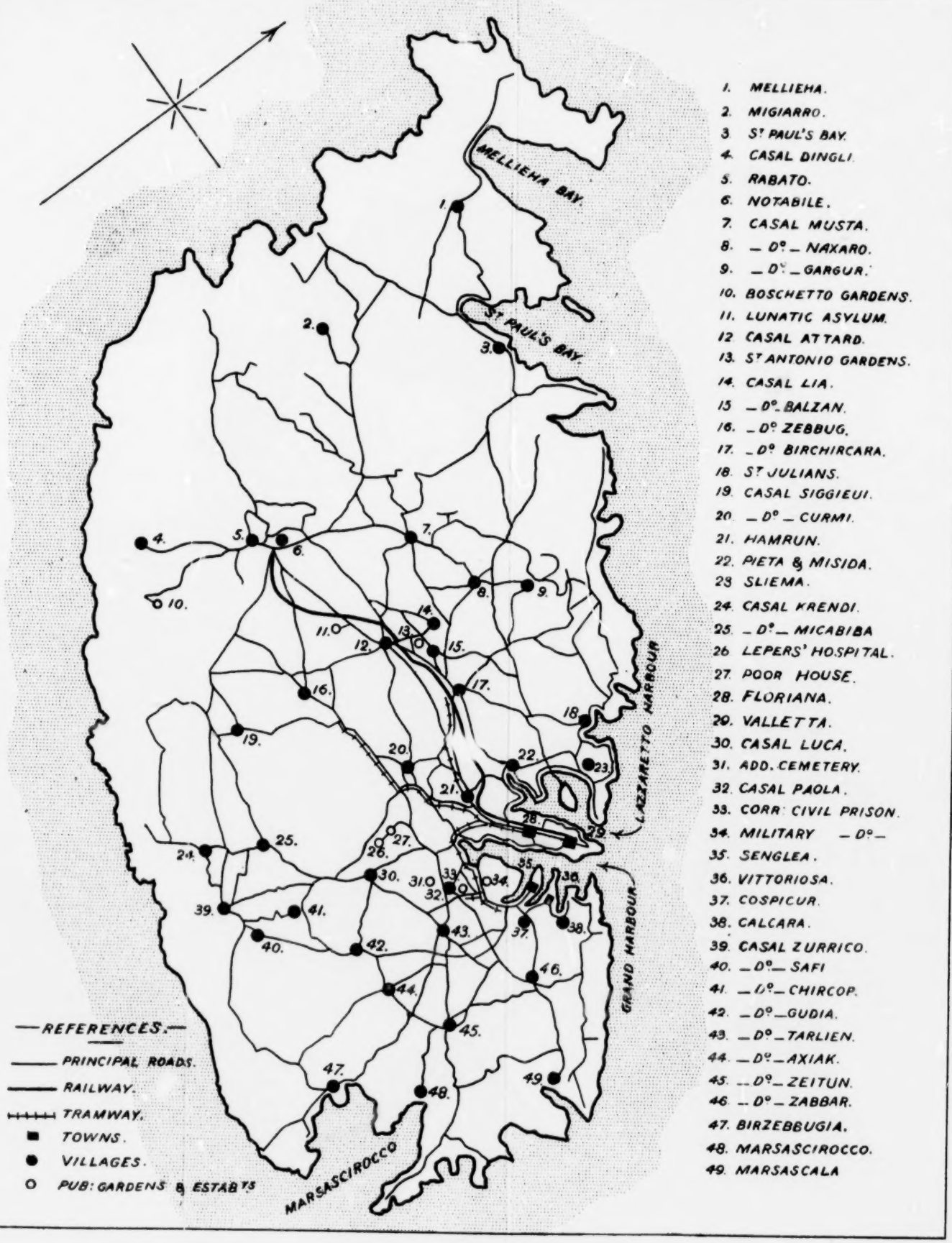
The capital outlay on the 31st March, 1910, was £71,145, and the net profit on the year's working was £8,220 (or 11·55 per cent. of the capital outlay).

The total number of units generated (exclusive of Central Station units) was 1,087,918, and the consumption of coal amounted to 3,097 tons, as compared with 1,069,573 units generated, and 3,124 tons of coal consumed in 1908-9.

The work done on the survey of the Island in 1909-10 was as follows:—

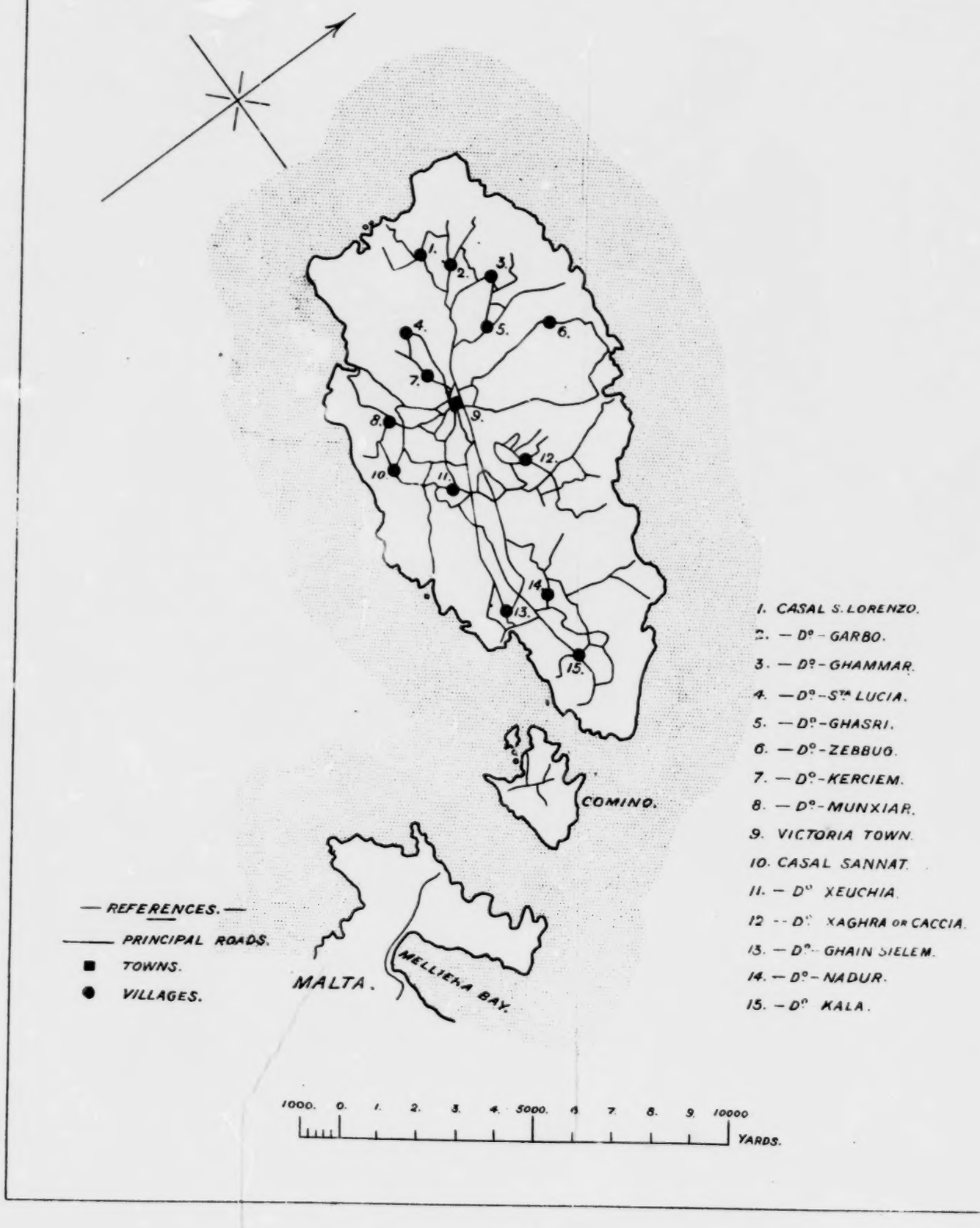
Survey with plane table	2,469·8 acres.
Traversing	103·1 miles.
Sheets checked (2,875·1 acres)	6 No.
,, published	5 No.
,, completed and transmitted to Chatham to be printed (1,360·1 acres)	3 No.

MAP OF MALTA



Ordnance Survey, Southampton, 1910.

MAP OF GOZO



Ordnance Survey, Southampton, 1910.

There is nothing new to record with regard to the social condition of the people. The past year, like its predecessor, was an unprosperous one, especially for the wage-earning classes; the demand for labour was far below the available supply, and the number of unemployed was consequently very considerable. The Colony has not escaped the general wave of commercial depression experienced in neighbouring countries, and there is, unfortunately, little prospect of an improvement in the near future.

I have, &c.,

E. M. MEREWETHER,
Lieutenant-Governor and
Chief Secretary to Government.

His Excellency
The Governor.

COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following recent reports, &c., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, &c.	Year.
609	Gambia	1908
610	Malta	1908–1909
611	Sierra Leone	1908
612	Turks and Caicos Islands	„
613	Gold Coast	„
614	Bechuanaland Protectorate	1908–1909
615	Bahamas	„
616	St. Lucia	1908
617	Hong Kong	„
618	Fiji	„
619	Nyasaland	1908–1909
620	Barbados	„
621	Trinidad and Tobago	„
622	Straits Settlements	1908
623	Somaliland	1908–1909
624	Mauritius	1908
625	St. Vincent	1908–1909
626	Jamaica	„
627	Swaziland	„
628	Grenada	1908
629	Leeward Islands	1908–1909
630	Southern Nigeria	1908
631	British Honduras	„
632	British Guiana	1908–1909
633	Northern Nigeria	„
634	Basutoland	„
635	East Africa Protectorate	„
636	Uganda	„
637	Weihaiwei	1909
638	St. Helena	„
639	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	„
640	Ashanti	„
641	Gambia	„

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, &c.	Subject.
63	Imperial Institute	Gums and Resins.
64	Uganda	Botany and Forestry.
65	Do.	Sleeping Sickness.
66	Gold Coast	Forests.
67	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1905–6.
68	Do. do.	do. 1906–7.
69	St. Helena	Fisheries.
70	Colonies	List of Laws relating to Patents, Trade Marks, &c.
71	Imperial Institute	Foodstuffs.
72	Fiji	Hurricane, 1910.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 686.

MALTA.

REPORT FOR 1910-11.

(For Report for 1909-10, *see* No. 642.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
September, 1911.

LONDON:
PUBLISHED BY HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE.
To be purchased, either directly or through any Bookseller, from
WYMAN AND SONS, LTD., FETTER LANE, E.C., and
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E. PONSONBY, LTD., 116, GRAFTON STREET, DUBLIN.

PRINTED BY
DARLING AND SON, LTD., BACON STREET, E.
1911.

[Cd. 5467-22.] *Price* 6*d*.

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OUTLINE MAPS—

Malta.

Gozo.

No. 686.

MALTA.

(For Report for 1909-10, *see* No. 642.)

THE GOVERNOR TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

The Palace,
Valletta,
4th August, 1911.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward, for your information, the accompanying report by the Acting Lieutenant-Governor and Chief Secretary to Government, on the Malta Blue Book for the year 1910-11.

I have, &c.,

LESLIE RUNDLE,
Governor.

The Right Honourable,
L. HARCOURT, M.P.,
&c. &c., &c.

(21049—2.) Wt. 31959—459. 1125. 9/11. D & S. A 2

Lieutenant-Governor's Office,
Malta,
27th July, 1911.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to submit the following report on the annual Blue Book for the year 1910-11.

I.—FINANCIAL.

The revenue for the year 1910-11 was £441,444, and the expenditure £467,373; there was, therefore, an excess of expenditure over revenue of £25,929.

The total amount of duty paid on articles imported for His Majesty's Naval and Military Services, and subsequently refunded as drawback, was £22,146. The actual revenue for the year was, therefore, £419,298, and the actual expenditure £445,227.

The surplus standing to the credit of the Government on the 1st April, 1911, was £89,228, as against £115,157 on the corresponding date of the previous year.

The estimated revenue for 1910-11 was £442,810, and the revenue collected £441,444; the receipts therefore fell short of the estimate by £1,366.

There were excesses under seven heads, viz.: "Customs," "Harbour and Quarantine Dues," "Licences," "Court Fines, &c.," "Fees of Court," "Post Office," "Interest," and "Miscellaneous Receipts," amounting in the aggregate to £4,311; and deficits under the remaining heads, amounting in the aggregate to £5,677—the net deficit being, as already stated, £1,366.

The principal excesses were the following:—

Customs (£710). The reasons for this increase are given in the next section of this report.

Harbour and Quarantine Dues (£726), due to an increase in the number of steamers calling at Malta, and to the fact that quarantine restrictions, entailing the collection of quarantine dues, were in force during a considerable part of the year.

Fees of Court (£515), due to fluctuation of business.

Post Office (£1,876), attributable mainly to the issue of new stamps, owing to which there was an increased demand for stamps.

The heads under which there were important deficits are:—Railway (£613); Water Service (£976); Electric Lighting (£2,085); and Rents (£1,241).

The receipts fell short of the estimate under Railway owing principally to the competition of the Tramway Company. The falling-off in the receipts for Water Service is attributable mainly to the continual decline in housebuilding. The estimate under Electric Light was not realised, principally because the amount due by the War Department for current supplied to Military buildings during the last quarter of 1910-11 was not paid within the year. The estimate under Rents was over-estimated, the fact that Easter rents would fall due in the current financial year having been overlooked.

Compared with the amount collected in the previous year, the revenue for 1910-11 shows an increase of £5,244.

The important increases are under:—

Customs (£4,427), due mainly to increased importation of wheat attributable to an abundant harvest in Southern Russia, which induced local merchants to avail themselves of the favourable state of the market and increase their stocks; and to the importation of a considerable consignment of petroleum intended for consumption during the current year.

Post Office (£1,575). New denominations of postage stamps were issued during the year, and there was an increased sale of stamps in consequence.

Rents (£2,390), due to the fact that certain rents which remained unpaid in 1909-10, were collected in the year under review.

The decreases are attributable mainly to the following causes:—

Electric Lighting (£1,149). A certain amount due for current supplied to the War Department was not paid within the year. The falling-off is also due, to some extent, to the adoption for street lighting of metallic filament lamps, which consume less current.

Miscellaneous Receipts (£2,064), due mainly to the fact that there were extraordinary receipts in the previous year.

The following table gives the revenue collected during the past five years:—

Year.	Revenue.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£
1906–7	513,594	—	—
1907–8	438,348	—	75,246
1908–9	457,520	19,172	—
1909–10	436,200	—	21,320
1910–11	441,444	5,244	—

The total expenditure for 1910-11 amounted to £467,373, and was made up as follows:—

	£	£
Establishments:—		
Personal Emoluments ...	169,067	
Other Charges	118,765	
		287,832
Interest		22,064
Pensions		23,290
Military Expenditure		5,000
Miscellaneous Services		37,060
Public Works		92,127
		£467,373

The total expenditure fell short of the estimate by £43,273, but exceeded that of the previous year by £9,360.

There were no excesses of any importance, while the principal savings were under "Public Works Extraordinary" (£31,710), due, in the main, to the suspension of the drainage flushing works, and to the fact that various important works, notably those connected with the improvement of the water supply, were not completed within the year.

As compared with that of the previous year, the expenditure for 1910-11 shows an increase of £9,360.

The only notable increases were the following:—£3,693 under Police, counterbalanced by a corresponding saving under Customs, due to the transfer of certain Police Stations and of officers and men from the Customs Department, and £12,039 under "Public Works Extraordinary," due, mainly, to the fact that extraordinary works for the improvement of the water supply were undertaken during the year.

The principal decreases were under Customs (£7,414) and Miscellaneous Services (£6,147). The former decrease is attributable to the causes which produced an increase under "Police" (*Vide* paragraph above); whilst the latter decrease is due, principally, to a reduction in the number of Maltese Officers serving in the Regular Forces, who are in receipt of a subsidy from local funds, and to decreases in the amount of drawback paid to the Imperial Government, and in the amount of duty refunded in respect of manufactured wheat exported.

The expenditure on Public Works amounted to £92,127, as against £80,266 in 1909-10.

The following table gives the expenditure during the past five years:—

Year.	Expenditure.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£
1906-7	446,849	—	—
1907-8	454,669	7,820	—
1908-9	445,014	—	9,655
1909-10	458,013	12,999	—
1910-11	467,373	9,360	—

The assets and liabilities of the Government on the 31st March, 1911, as compared with the same date in 1910, were:—

Year.	Assets.	Liabilities.	Surplus.
	£	£	£
1909-10	784,665	669,508	115,157
1910-11	757,331	668,103	89,228
Decrease	27,334	1,405	25,929

The decrease in the assets is due to the sale of securities to meet Treasury requirements.

The amount of British coin in circulation in the Colony on the 31st March, 1911, is roughly estimated at £490,000.

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

The total declared value of goods imported (exclusive of goods imported for transhipment) was £2,356,043, made up as follows:—

From the United Kingdom	968,045
,, British Possessions	49,124
,, Foreign Countries	1,338,874
	£2,356,043

The principal imports from the United Kingdom were:—Beer, £39,649; butter and butter substitutes, £29,294; potatoes, £19,146; spirits, £15,549; sugar, £13,115; fish (preserved), £16,067; cheese, £12,072; coal, £344,688; haberdashery, £5,871; flour and semola, £36,014; iron and steel manufactures, £56,019; apparel and slops, £10,077; cotton goods, £50,360; meat (preserved), £30,499.

From British Possessions:—Beef and mutton (frozen or preserved), £33,597; tea, £7,622.

From Foreign Countries:—Bullocks, £90,968; swine, £7,639; cheese, £25,643; coffee, £16,702; wheat, £294,638; flour and semola, £20,342; lard, £13,644; sugar, £63,388; olive oil, £25,477; saggina, £19,696; pulse, £76,024; seeds, £25,025; wine, £68,186; petroleum, £46,121; tobacco (unmanufactured), £25,422; fish (fresh or preserved), £31,582; fruit (fresh or preserved), £17,086; charcoal, £21,740; iron and steel manufactures, £17,449; cotton goods, £18,956; wood and timber, £14,764; leather and leather manufactures, £13,505; silk goods, £12,215; spirits, £9,416; paper for printing, £9,215; milk (condensed or preserved), £7,477; rice, £7,066; butter and butter substitutes, £6,609; potatoes, £6,577; glass and glass-ware, £6,326; bullion and specie, £92,090.

The following table shows the net amount of duty collected on each dutiable article, as compared with the amount received in 1909-10:—

—	1909–10.	1910–11.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Beer	19,289	19,376	87	—
Bullocks and other animals of the kind.	8,893	7,229	—	1,664

—	1909-10.	1910-11.	Increase.	Decrease.
Grains :—	£	£	£	£
Barley	270	547	277	—
Indian corn	41	20	—	21
Inferior grain...	46	51	5	—
Saggina	1,725	1,878	153	—
Wheat	59,325	70,335	11,010	—
Damaged	288	8	—	280
Grain, Manufactured :—				
Biscuits	452	502	50	—
Flour and other kinds of manufactured grain.	20,176	18,599	—	1,577
Malt and malt extract ...	214	239	25	—
Damaged	22	18	—	4
Horses	477	284	—	193
Meat, beef or mutton	197	1,366	1,169	—
Methylated spirits	4	51	47	—
Mules	71	25	—	46
Oil :—				
Cotton seed	2,317	2,174	—	143
Olive oil and other edible oils	471	668	197	—
Petroleum	7,157	9,158	2,001	—
Potatoes	3,272	2,759	—	513
Pulse	4,928	5,077	149	—
Seeds	1,887	1,367	—	520
Sheep	18	63	45	—
Spirits	27,419	26,447	—	972
Sugar	6,195	6,364	169	—
Tobacco :—				
Cigars and cigarettes... ...	3,413	3,602	189	—
Cavendish and negrohead ...	512	535	23	—
Other manufactured tobacco	372	445	73	—
Snuff	3	2	—	1
Unmanufactured	7,439	7,659	220	—
Varnish containing spirit ...	13	25	12	—
Vinegar	35	38	3	—
Wines	39,492	35,536	—	3,956
Total	216,433	222,447	15,904	9,890

The only increases which deserve special notice are £11,010 under wheat, and £2,001 under petroleum. The increase under wheat is due, mainly, to the fact that the importation in the previous year was below the average, whilst the increase under petroleum is mainly attributable to the fact that a consignment of petroleum which is expected to be consumed during the current year was imported in 1910-11.

The only important decrease is under wine (£3,955 9*s*. 11*d*.), the importation of which continues steadily to fall, owing, principally, to reduced consumption, an increase of production of wine made from locally grown grapes, and the local manufacture of artificial wine.

The total declared value of goods exported (exclusive of transhipment) was £863,429, made up as follows:—

Destination.	Local produce and manufactures.	Imported goods re-exported.	Total.
	£	£	£
To the United Kingdom	15,210	90,978	106,188
To British Possessions	7,717	22,476	30,193
To Foreign Countries	185,682	176,400	362,082
Bunker coals shipped on merchant vessels	—	364,966	364,966
Total	208,609	654,820	863,429

The principal exports to the United Kingdom were: bullion and specie (£61,726); and to Foreign Countries: fish, fresh or preserved (£4,533); tea (£8,307), and bullion and specie (£97,387).

The total area of land under cultivation was 41,865 acres, viz.: an increase of 828 acres over the previous year, while the area of uncultivated land was estimated at 4,737 acres, as against 4,789 acres in 1909-10.

At the end of the year, the number of holdings was estimated at 11,087 (the average acreage being 3·7 acres per holding) as against 11,000 in 1909-10. As in the previous two years, the principal agricultural products were wheat, barley, and " mischiato " (a mixture of both). The total area under cereals was 13,722 acres, as compared with 13,465 acres in 1909-10, and the total yield in the past two years was as follows:—

Year.	Wheat.	Barley.	Mischiato.	Total.
	Qrs.	Qrs.	Qrs.	Qrs.
1909–10	18,519	8,547	7,694	34,760
1910–11	19,722	10,582	6,256	36,560
Total	38,241	19,129	13,950	71,320

The area under beans and other pulse was 2,050 acres, against 2,302 in 1909-10, a decrease of 252 acres, and the total yield was 4,124 quarters, as compared with 3,913 quarters in the previous year. The area planted with tubers was 3,676 acres (as against 3,409 acres in 1909-10), and the total yield was 350,588 cwts., as compared with 199,460 cwts. in the previous year, showing an increase of 151,128 cwts. The importation of potatoes, as compared with that of the previous year, shows a decrease of 27,372 cwts. The quantity imported in 1910-11 was 115,230 cwts., of which 76,026 cwts. were used as seed, 38,642 cwts. consumed locally, and 562 cwts. re-exported.

The area planted with onions was 1,058 acres, against 653 acres last year, while the yield amounted to 5,460 tons, as compared with 3,820.

Cummin seed was planted on 2,424 acres, against 1,825 acres; and the total yield amounted to 13,865 cwts., an increase of 9,649 cwts. on the yield of 1909-10.

The total quantity of oranges, lemons, and mandarines gathered is estimated at 196,000 dozen, as against 264,000, a decrease of 68,000 dozen.

The local production of cotton continues to show a slight improvement. Cotton was grown on 903 acres, as against 793 acres in 1909-10, and the total yield was 196,448 lbs. (or an average of 217 lbs. per acre), against 181,191 lbs. (with an average yield of 228 lbs. per acre) in 1909-10. The average price obtained was 7*d*. per lb. The quantity exported was 161,829 lbs. Of this, 20,160 lbs. were exported to the United Kingdom, and the balance to Italy and Germany.

11,426 acres were under clover, barley (cut in the green stage), vetches, &c., as against 11,539 acres in 1909-10; and the total yield amounted to 297,150 loads of 10 bundles each, as compared with 350,640 loads in the preceding year. The quality, however, was very poor, the crop having been damaged by rain.

Shipping.

The total number and tonnage of steam and sailing vessels which entered and cleared during the past two years were as follows:—

Year.	Steamers.				Sailing Vessels.				Total.	
	Entered.		Cleared.		Entered.		Cleared.			
	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.
1910–11 ...	2,391	4,305,478	2,385	4,297,592	668	32,258	663	31,709	6,107	8,667,037
1909–10 ...	2,277	3,718,292	2,273	3,714,399	715	36,803	706	35,842	5,971	7,505,336
Decrease ...	—	—	—	—	47	4,545	43	4,133	—	—
Increase ...	114	587,186	112	583,193	—	—	—	—	136	1,161,701

The number of British ships which called at Malta during the year was 1,026, as against 966 in 1909-10, and their tonnage was 2,399,939, as against 2,127,132, giving an increase of 60 in ships and 272,807 in tonnage.

The number of foreign ships was 1,365 (with a tonnage of 1,905,539), as against 1,311 ships (with a tonnage of 1,591,160). There was, therefore, an increase of 54 in foreign ships, and of 314,379 in tonnage.

The nationality of foreign steamers which called at Malta during the past two years was as follows:—

Nationality.	1909–10.		1910–11.	
	Number of Ships.	Tonnage.	Number of Ships.	Tonnage.
Austrian	552	412,145	508	393,698
Belgian	9	9,793	16	24,545
Danish...	8	9,616	6	3,969
French...	52	54,299	56	84,643
German	333	643,462	397	890,793
Greek	51	71,452	66	96,908
Dutch	50	52,489	61	71,953
Italian	235	312,757	223	291,995
Norwegian	6	4,162	12	17,662
Miscellaneous...	15	20,985	20	29,373
Total	1,311	1,591,160	1,365	1,905,539

The following table gives the tonnage of British and Foreign shipping which entered and cleared with cargoes in 1910-11, as distinguished from vessels in ballast:—

——	British.	Foreign.	Total.
Entered	1,095,230	943,996	2,039,226
Cleared...	906,488	859,382	1,765,870
Total	2,001,718	1,803,378	3,805,096

The total net revenue collected by the Government from tonnage dues was £6,433, as against £6,074, showing an increase of £359 in the year under review.

The total shipping entered and cleared for the past five years was as follows:—

Year.	Entered.		Cleared.	
	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.
1906–7	3,344	3,645,906	3,338	3,651,918
1907–8	3,254	3,792,495	3,224	3,774,268
1908–9	3,212	4,036,752	3,205	4,027,000
1909–10	2,992	3,755,095	2,979	3,750,241
1910–11	3,059	4,337,736	3,048	4,329,301

III.—LEGISLATION.

Sixteen Ordinances were passed by the Council of Government during the year under review, of which only those mentioned hereunder are of sufficient importance to be specially noticed in this report.

Ordinance No. IV. of 1910 makes provision for controlling the sale and possession of offensive weapons, and the carrying of certain knives.

Ordinance No. V. of 1910 amends Ordinance No. VII. of 1904 relating to the election of members of the Council of Government.

Ordinance No. VI. of 1910 makes provision for the protection and preservation of monuments and other objects of local antiquarian or archæological importance.

Ordinance No. IX. of 1910 prohibits the manufacture, sale, and importation of matches made with white phosphorus.

Ordinance No. X. of 1910 amends Ordinance No. VII. of 1897 relating to Prisons.

Ordinance No. XI. of 1910 amends several articles of the Police Laws, and introduces important amendments in regard to the constitution of the Licensing Board, the closing of public-houses, the licensing of lodging-houses, and sporting licences.

Ordinance No. XII. of 1910 makes provision for establishing uniformity of weights and measures and other purposes connected therewith. This Ordinance provides for the compulsory adoption of the metric system of weights and measures in these Islands from 1st January, 1912, or such later date as may be fixed by a Notice in the Government Gazette.

Ordinance No. XIII. of 1910, which supersedes Ordinance No. XVIII. of 1888, provides for the licensing and keeping of dogs, &c.

IV.—EDUCATION.

The number of day schools in Malta and Gozo was 101, as shown below:—

—	Malta.	Gozo.	Total.
Boys	29	9	38
Girls	30	9	39
Infants...	9	1	10
Drawing (boys)	5	—	5
„ (girls)	5	—	5
Modelling and wood-carving	3	—	3
Sunday school (secular instruction) ...	1	—	1
Total	82	19	101

The number of night schools in the two Islands was 42—33 in Malta and 9 in Gozo.

The number of children admitted to the day schools was 7,310, and the number of those who left school was 5,758, as compared with 7,141 and 5,227, respectively, in 1909-10; the number of pupils admitted to the night schools was 3,026, as against 3,086 in the previous year.

Of the pupils who left school, 35 (11 boys and 24 girls) were appointed monitors and monitresses in the Government Schools, 34 passed into the Lyceum, 10 were successful at the competitive examinations held during the year for apprenticeships in His Majesty's Dockyard, 39 were admitted to the Archiepiscopal Seminary in Malta and the Episcopal Seminary in Gozo, and 2 passed into the Marine Engineering Class in the Lyceum.

The number of children who left school during the year before reaching Standard III. was 2,846, as against 2,572 in 1909-10.

The enrolment in the dayschools on the 1st September, 1910, was 18,957, as against 18,683 on the same date in the previous year. The night schools were attended by 2,719 pupils at the beginning of the scholastic year (1st October, 1910), as against 2,341 on the corresponding date in 1909.

The total number of pupils in the day and night schools (including the Sunday School), at the beginning of the scholastic year, was 21,715, as against 21,066 in 1909.

The average annual enrolment was 19,658, and the average annual attendance 16,378, as against 19,109 and 15,733, respectively, in 1909-10. The percentage of attendance to enrolment was 83·3, as against 82·3 in 1909-10. The highest enrolment was 23,051, and the lowest 16,437, as against 22,605 and 16,032, respectively, in the previous year.

Out of 5,664 parents or guardians who were invited to select the language of colloquial instruction for their children or wards, on their being admitted to the schools, or on their being promoted to Standards I. and II., 97·7 per cent. chose English, and 2·3 per cent. chose Italian; as against 96·3 per cent. for English, and 3·7 per cent. for Italian in 1909-10.

In the case of admissions or promotions to Standard III., out of 2,979 parents or guardians who selected the secondary language of instruction for their children or wards, 99·3 per cent. chose English, and 0·7 per cent. Italian; as against 99·1 per cent. who elected for English, and 0·9 per cent. for Italian in the previous year.

The number of parents or guardians of pupils attending the higher standards who were called upon to choose the language in which their children or wards should be examined, was 2,409, as against 2,326 in 1909-10. Of these, 75 per cent. selected English only, 24·7 per cent. chose English and Italian, and 0·3 per cent. were for Italian only. The corresponding percentages in the previous year were 74·6, 24·7, and 0·7, respectively.

The number of pupils borne on the rolls on the day of examination was 16,235, as against 15,676 in 1909-10. The number individually examined was 15,100, of whom 13,209, or 87·4 per cent., obtained passes, with an average percentage of 78·9 marks, as against 14,830 pupils examined in 1909-10, of whom 13,014, or 87·8 per cent., had passes, with an average percentage of 82·4 marks.

The strength of the teaching staff during the year was as follows:—

Headmasters	38
Headmistresses	49
Probationary Teachers	4
Assistant Teachers (males)	220
Monitors	39
Assistant Teachers (females)	290
Monitresses	100
Teachers of drawing, dress-cutting, lace-making	10
Total	750

One male student was sent to St. Mary's Training College, Hammersmith, for training, and two female students to the Training College, St. Charles's Square, London. A satisfactory report was received on the second year's work of the students who were sent to Bristol and St. Charles's Training Colleges in 1908-09.

Twenty-two male and ten female teachers attended a special preparatory training class for young teachers desirous of proceeding to England for training, which was started in November, 1910.

The total cost of the Elementary Schools was £27,958, as against £27,533 in 1909-10. Of the expenditure in 1910-11, £24,384 was for "Personal Emoluments," and £3,574 for "Other Charges," as against £23,684 and £3,848, respectively, in the previous year.

The average cost per pupil, calculated on the number of pupils on the rolls at the beginning of the scholastic year, was 25*s.* 9*d.*; calculated on the daily average enrolment, 28*s.* 5*d.*; and calculated on the daily average attendance, 34*s.* 2*d.*; as against 26*s.* 1*d.*, 28*s.* 9*d.*, and 35*s.*, respectively, in 1909-10.

As the scholastic year in the University, Lyceum, and Secondary School for Girls commences in October, the returns for these institutions are a year behindhand.

An average of 201 students attended the Secondary School for Girls in 1909-10, as against 213 in the preceding year. The average percentage of attendance was 86. In the preceding year it was 85.

The average daily attendance in the Secondary School for Boys, Gozo, was 57, as against 64 in the previous year, and the percentage of attendance was 94, as against 93 in the previous year.

The daily average number of students in the Lyceum was 548, as against 602 in 1908-9, while the percentage of attendance was 82, as against 83.

The number of boys admitted in 1909-10 was 93, out of 178 candidates, as against 64 out of 162 candidates in the previous year.

At the annual examinations held in July, 331 students were examined in English, and 329 in Italian, the number of passes in English being 291, or 88 per cent., and 219, or 67 per cent. in Italian.

The average number of students who attended the University was 222, against 163 in the previous year.

Seventy-two candidates entered for the Matriculation Examination held in 1910. Of these, 20 were successful.

The average cost of education per student was as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
Secondary School (Girls)	2	9	9
,, ,, (Boys)	6	13	8
Lyceum	6	4	9
University	18	3	1

while the average fees paid by each of the students in the different institutions were as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
Secondary School (Girls)	2	1	4
,, ,, (Boys)		Nil.	
Lyceum	1	17	0
University	7	1	1

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

The total number of persons admitted into the Hospitals and maintained in the other Charitable Institutions of Malta and Gozo (exclusive of staff) was 8,182, as against 7,309 in 1909-10. In addition to these, 119,893 persons were attended by the District Medical Officers at the Government Dispensaries or at their own homes, as against 118,582 in the previous year; and pecuniary assistance amounting to £3,549 was given to 4,696 persons as against £3,509 given to 4,605 persons in 1909-10.

The total cost of the Charitable Institutions in the two Islands (exclusive of works) was £70,968, as against £67,818 in 1909-10.

The following table gives details regarding persons treated in hospitals, poor-houses, and asylums in the two Islands during 1910-11:—

——	No. of Inmates on 1st April, 1910.	No. of admissions during the year.	Total.	No. discharged.	No. of deaths.	Remaining on 1st April, 1911.
Hospitals—						
General Hospital	239	3,236	3,475	3,004	236	235
Seamen's Hospital	5	82	87	68	6	13
Santo Spirito Hospital	80	460	540	422	46	72
Connaught Hospital	61	320	381	247	62	72
Manoel Hospital	8	120	128	113	12	3
Gozo Hospital	39	582	421	492	85	44
Contagious diseases Hospital, Gozo	1	16	17	15	2	—
Poor-Houses:—						
Malta Poor-House	992	214	1,206	59	151	996
Gozo Poor-House	147	50	197	9	42	146
Asylums:—						
Lunatic Asylum	739	129	868	82	28	758
Orphan Asylum	100	13	113	6	2	105
Total	2,411	5,222	7,433	4,517	672	2,444

The number of depositors in the Savings Bank on the 31st March, 1911, was 7,668, and the amount standing to their credit £549,815, of which £540,131 was invested in British and other securities.

The deposits made during the year amounted to £131,383, and the withdrawals to £130,241, as against £148,150 and £136,524, respectively, in 1909-10.

The expenses of management and the interest credited to depositors amounted to £10,991, whilst the revenue derived from interest and invested funds, unappropriated interest, and sale of pass books was £17,297, leaving a net profit of £6,306.

VI.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

The nominal strength of the Police Force on the 31st March, 1911, was 36 officers and 508 non-commissioned officers and men, and the actual strength was 33 officers and 502 non-commissioned officers and men.

The total number of licences issued or renewed by the Police in 1910-11 was 2,631, as against 2,652 in the preceding year; and the total amount collected by the Government in respect of wines and spirits was £3,267, as against £3,383 in 1909-10.

The number of security bonds signed under the Aliens Law was 285. The number of female immigrants was 128, of whom 48 were registered as housewives. Thirty-one aliens were expelled as " undesirables " during the year, as against 63 in the previous year.

The following table gives the total number of persons imprisoned in 1910-11.

—	Remaining on 1st April 1910.	Admitted in 1910-11.	Total.	Discharged.	Died.	Remaining on 31st Mar. 1911.
Malta—						
Criminal prisoners ...	255	9,491	9,746	9,435	1	310
Debtors	4	12	16	13	—	3
Gozo—						
Criminal prisoners ...	42	775	817	804	—	13
Debtors	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	301	10,278	10,579	10,252	1	326

The number of persons admitted during the year was 10,266, as against 7,481 in 1909-10.

The following table shows the number of males and females imprisoned in the Malta and Gozo prisons during the past two years:—

—	1909-10.			1910-11.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Malta—						
From Local Courts	5,793	653	6,446	8,717	773	9,490
„ Courts Martial	2	—	2	1	—	1
„ Consular Courts	1	—	1	—	—	—
Gozo—						
From Local Courts	998	34	1,032	754	21	775
Total	6,794	687	7,481	9,472	794	10,266

The general health of the prisoners in the Malta Prison was good. Twenty-nine prisoners were admitted to the Prison Infirmary during the year; and the daily average on the sick list, including prisoners on medical diet not admitted into hospital, was 19.

The number of prison offences was 1,037, as against 816 in 1909-10, and the punishments inflicted were as follows:—

Reprimanded	173
Deprived of mattress	61
Solitary confinement in cell	391
Punishment diet	375
Punishment diet and deprived of mattress	30
Reduction in grade	5
Forfeiture of marks	1
Loss of good conduct stripes	1
Total	1,037

The increase of 221 in the number of offences was due to the fact that the daily population in the prison was greater than in 1909-10.

The prisoners were employed on various kinds of work, *e.g.*, stone-breaking, pumping water, cultivation of prison lands, and attending on sick prisoners; and those who knew a trade were employed as tailors, mat and broom makers, joiners, masons, stainers, tinmen, and plumbers.

The receipts of the Malta prison were as follows:—

	£
Naval convicts	41
Sale of prison manufactures	243
Sale of produce of prison lands	186
Total	£470

as against £429 in the preceding year.

The total cost of the prisons for 1910-11 (exclusive of the Valletta Lock-up) was £4,886, viz.: Malta Prison, £4,731; Gozo Prison, £155.

The total number of offences reported to the Police in the past two years is shown below, viz:—

	1909-10.	1910-11.
Offences against the person	7,281	7,706
Offences against the good order of families	108	163
Offences against property	3,598	4,155
Other offences	23,023	29,054
Total	34,010	41,078

showing a net increase of 7,068 offences in 1910-11.

The total number of offences dealt with by the Courts of Judicial Police in Malta and Gozo was 27,150, made up as follows:—

—	Malta.	Gozo.	Total.
Crimes	809	69	878
Contraventions	24,306	1,966	26,272
Total	25,115	2,035	27,150

The number of offences not dealt with by the Courts was, therefore, 13,928, or 34 per cent. of the total number reported, while the number of crimes the perpetrators of which were not discovered was 261, or 23 per cent., of the total number reported, which was 1,143.

The total number of persons summoned before the Magistrates was 27,150, as against 24,134 in the preceding year, an increase of 3,016. They were dealt with as follows:—

Summarily convicted	26,037
Committed for trial	152
Acquitted	353
Discharged for want of evidence or in default of prosecution	608
Total	27,150

The punishments inflicted on the persons who were summarily convicted were as follows:—

Imprisoned	572
Fined	20,490
Fined and imprisoned	18
Bound over	325
Admonished	4,632
Total	26,037

The number of persons admonished (4,632) was 17 per cent. of the number summarily convicted, as against 14 per cent. in the previous year.

There were two trials for murder. In one case the accused was sentenced to hard labour for life, and in the other case he was remitted to the Lunatic Asylum.

The total number of persons tried by the Criminal Court during the year was 152, as against 138 in 1909-10, and the results were as stated below:—

	1909-10.	1910-11.
Convicted	92	115
Acquitted	46	37
Total	138	152

The crimes of the persons convicted may be classified as follows:—

Murder	2
Attempt to murder	7
Other offences against the person	25
Offences against property	43
Offences against the good order of families ...	14
Miscellaneous offences	24
Total	115

Of the 1,679 cases instituted in the Civil Court, First Hall, 856 were for the determination of a point of fact or law, and the rest for the recovery of sums of money amounting in the aggregate to £22,798.

In the Commercial Court, 1,093 cases were for the determination of a point of fact or law, and the rest for the recovery of sums of money amounting in the aggregate to £73,621, whereof £48,708 in bankruptcy proceedings.

The business transacted in the Civil Court, Second Hall, was as follows:—

Applications disposed of	1,709
Secret wills deposited	40
Secret wills withdrawn	5
Deposits made	£1,454

The number of cases pending in the Superior Courts on the 31st March, 1911, was 1,208, as shown below:—

Civil Court, First Hall (two Judges)	798
Commercial Court (one Judge)...	188
Court of Appeal (three Judges)	146
,, (appeals from Inferior Courts in Civil Cases, one Judge)	14
,, (appeals from Inferior Courts in Criminal Cases, one Judge) ...	29
Criminal Court (one Judge)	33
Total	1,208

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

The Census was taken in these Islands on the 2nd April, 1911, when the civil population was found to be 211,473.

The total number of births in the past two years was as follows:—

	1909-10.	1910-11.
Males	4,137	4,073
Females	3,650	3,634
	7,787	7,707

In 1910-11 the birth rate was 36·12 per mille, as compared with 36·07 per mille, in the previous year. The average birth rate for the last 12 years was 38·26 per mille.

The total number of deaths in the two years was as follows:—

	1909-10.	1910-11.
Males	2,568	2,386
Females	2,350	2,226
	4,918	4,612

The death rate of the civil population in 1910-11 was 21·42 per mille, as against 22·57 per mille in 1909-10.

The number of marriages in 1910-11 was 971, as against 988 in the previous year.

The general state of health of the Island during the year was satisfactory, and the decrease in the general death rate during the past two years maintained. The Colony was not visited by any epidemic during the year.

The following table shows the number of cases of infectious diseases reported, and the number of deaths from each disease, including cases and deaths in the Fleet and Garrison, during the past two years:—

	1909–10.		1910–11.	
	No. of cases	No. of deaths.	No. of cases.	No. of deaths.
Chicken-pox	126	—	189	—
Diphtheria	65	2	64	12
Enteric fever	549	71	127	28
Erysipelas	83	6	90	9
Febrile puerperal diseases	16	6	17	6
Influenza	120	4	620	9
Malarial fever	25	—	8	—
Measles	6	—	15	—
Mediterranean fever	468	53	300	35
Scarlet fever	9	—	13	—
Small-pox	12	1	43	4
Tubercular phthisis	307	194	244	167
Whooping-cough	654	20	260	8
Total	2,440	357	1,990	278

The small-pox cases were all imported.

The incidence of enteric fever was normal, and the cases were not confined to any particular town or village.

Mediterranean fever has shown a considerable decrease among the civil population, and has practically ceased altogether in the Fleet and Garrison.

During the year, 13,272 goats were inspected by the Sanitary Authorities; 402 were found infected, and destroyed.

The number of vaccinations performed by District Medical Officers in Malta and Gozo was 6,565, of which 6,451 were successful.

The death rate amongst children under twelve months was 236·93 per 1,000 births, as against 242·46 in the preceding year. There was also a slight decrease in the death rate of children under 5 years.

The following works under the general drainage scheme were carried out during the year, viz.:—

Completing the drainage of Zabbar;

Completing the intercepting sewer, and laying a portion of the street sewers at Victoria, Gozo;

Constructing a portion of the intercepting sewer at Ghain-sielem, Gozo, and Zeitun, Malta;

Constructing a portion of the street sewers at Casals Tarxien and Paula;

Extending the street sewers at Misida, Sliema, Hamrun (total drained area, 3,300 square yards).

The meteorological returns for 1910-11 are summarized in the following table:—

Month.	Temperature.					Rainfall.		Winds.	
	Solar Maximum.	Shade Maximum.	Shade Minimum.	Mean Daily Range.	Mean Temperature.	No. of inches.	Mean percentage Humidity.	General Direction.	Average Force.
1910.									
April	141·5	73·4	47·3	9·6	58·9	0·844	84·6	N.W. & E.	2·7
May	139·6	75 3	53·2	9·0	62·3	0·140	80·7	W. & N.W.	3·1
June	150·1	84·9	61·0	12·3	70·5	—	86·1	W. & S.	1·5
July	154·4	92·7	63·9	11·9	75·0	—	79·1	W. & N.W.	1·9
August	149·6	89·2	68·5	9·9	77·9	0·015	72·9	N.W. & N.	1·8
September ...	147·3	83·7	62·0	8·3	71·3	2·450	76·7	N.W. & N.	2·5
October ...	147·0	88·5	61·0	10·6	72·0	0·705	76·2	S.E. & E.	1·7
November ...	142·2	80·2	50·0	13·8	63·8	1·792	69·3	W. & S.W.	2·7
December ...	134·1	71·2	49·3	7·5	58·6	6·520	84·0	S. & N.W.	2·3
1911.									
January ...	123·0	62·2	43·0	6·9	52·7	4·866	82·0	S.W. & S.	2·6
February ...	128·8	71·4	39·0	7·4	52·2	0·439	76·5	N.W. & N.E.	2·8
March	132·5	72·5	45·5	8·7	56·2	1·205	80·5	S.E. & N.E.	2·2

The highest temperature in the shade was 92°·7, on the 20th July, 1910, and the lowest 39°·7, on the 10th February, 1911. The mean temperature for the year was 64°·3, as compared with 63° in the previous year. The mean temperature for the summer

months (June, July, August, September) was 73°·9, as against 74°·1 during the same period in 1909. The mean temperature for the winter months (January, February, March) was 53°·7, as compared with 53°·6 in 1909.

The total rainfall was 18·976 inches, or 5·367 inches less than that of the previous year. The average rainfall for the last ten years was 22·260 inches. The prevailing winds were N.W. on 72 days, W. on 62 days, and E. on 41 days. The average velocity of the wind per hour was 8·4 miles. The average number of hours of bright sunshine per day was 8·2, or 1·1 above the average for 1909-10.

Very cold weather was experienced from the 8th to the 12th February, the thermometer falling to 30°·6 at Casal Lia, and 31°·4 at Casal Zeitun. There was a fall of snow on the 9th February, 1910.

VIII.—POSTAL AND TELEPHONE SERVICES.

Details of the postal matter dealt with in the past two years are given in the following table:—

	1909–10.		1910–11.	
	Received.	Despatched.	Received.	Despatched.
Letters	1,754,142	2,017,405	1,740,284	1,932,294
Post Cards	207,194	315,718	183,313	271,804
Printed Matter ...	921,219	349,843	987,831	379,288
Parcels	46,793	15,937	46,344	16,633
Total	2,929,348	2,698,903	2,957,772	2,600,019
	5,628,251		5,557,791	

The total number of mails received during the year was 9,509, and the number despatched 6,504, as against 9,381 and 6,244, respectively, in 1909-10.

The total number of registered articles received and despatched was 145,016, as against 143,153, an increase of 1,863.

The total number of money orders issued and paid in the Colony was 11,430 (£43,293 9*s*. 1*d*.), as against 11,726 (£40,003 19*s*. 1*d*.) in the previous year; and the total number of postal orders issued and paid was 123,038 (£65,883 7*s*. 2*d*.), as against 115,268 (£64,482 18*s*. 10*d*.) in 1909-10.

The total number of parcels received and despatched was 62,977, as against 62,730 in 1909-10, showing an increase of 247 parcels.

The total length of aerial telephone wires belonging to the military authorities open to the public on 31st March, 1911, was 18½ miles, while the total length of wires belonging to the "Melita Telephone Exchange," on the same date, was 742 miles.

The subsidised mail service by the " Adria " Company has been carried out in a satisfactory manner. Owing to stress of weather, the mail steamer was detained at Syracuse on five occasions, and prevented from leaving Malta only on one occasion.

IX.—MILITARY EXPENDITURE.

The total expenditure on the Garrison (including the Militia) was £510,033, as compared with £513,636 in the previous year. This expenditure includes the usual Colonial contribution of £5,000 per annum.

X.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

The gross revenue of the Railway for the year was £6,507, as against £6,864 in 1909-10, and the expenditure, including additions and renewals (£1,462), was £7,742, showing a net loss of £1,235 on the year's working. In addition to the expenditure mentioned above, £167 was expended on the Railway Technical School.

The cost of the Water Works Branch of the Public Works Department (exclusive of new works) was £13,446, and the revenue derived from water supplied, laying house services, and rent of meters was £18,664, as compared with £12,847 and £17,723, respectively, in 1909-10.

795,754,750 gallons of water were consumed, as against 669,877,000 gallons consumed in the previous year.

The revenue derived from the electric light installation was £18,365, against £19,514 in the previous year.

The capital outlay on the 31st March, 1911, was £72,788, and the net profit on the year's working was £6,050 (or 8·31 per cent. of the total capital outlay).

The total number of units generated (exclusive of Central Station units) was 1,079,765, and the consumption of coal amounted to 2,777 tons, as compared with 1,087,918 units generated, and 3,097 tons of coal consumed in 1909-10.

The work done on the survey of the Island in 1910-11 was as follows:—

Survey with plane table	2,233·3 acres.
Traversing	90 miles.
Sheets checked (2,875·1 acres)	6 No.
,, published	3 No.
,, completed and transmitted to Chatham to be printed (1,360·1 acres)...	2 No.

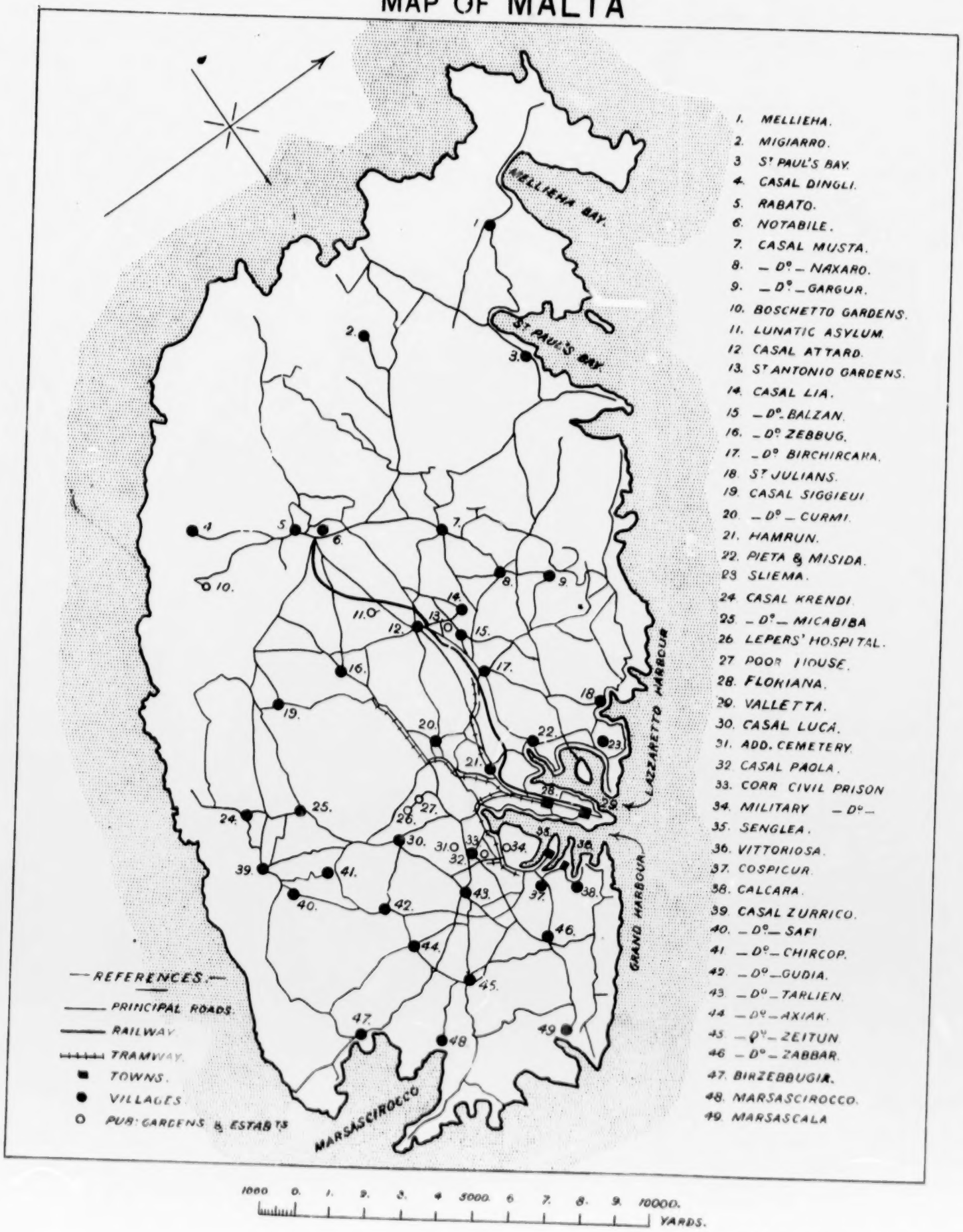
Although during the summer of 1910 Malta was surrounded by centres of cholera infection, the measures adopted proved effective in preventing the introduction of the disease.

There is still no satisfactory change to record as regards the demand for labour, and there has been hardly any recovery from the commercial depression mentioned in last year's report. Persons unable to find employment are commencing to leave on their own initiative, to seek their fortunes elsewhere. The flow of emigration seems to be mainly in the direction of the United States of America.

I have, &c.,

E. P. S. ROUPELL,
Acting Lieutenant-Governor and
Chief Secretary to Government.

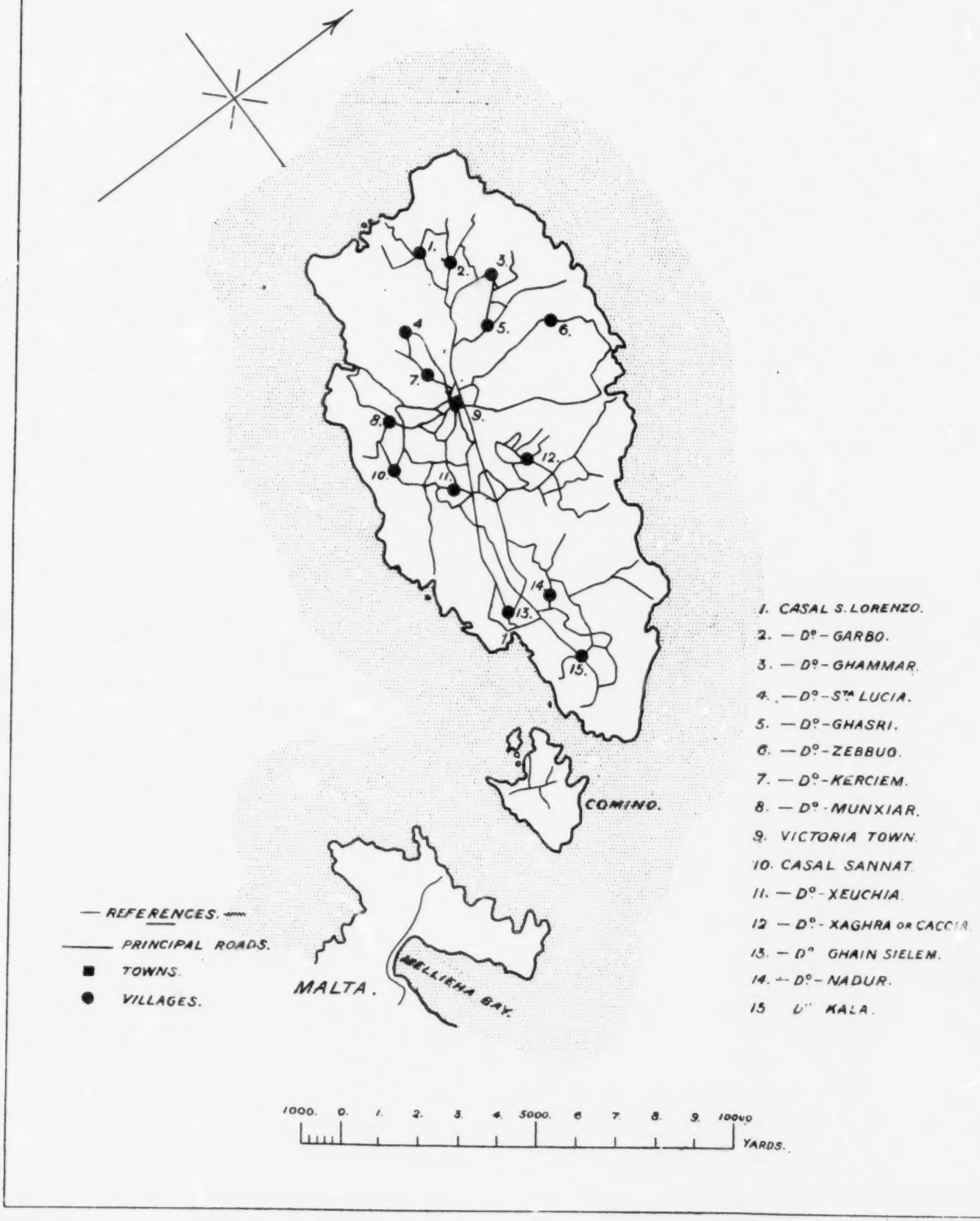
MAP OF MALTA



1000 0. 1. 2. 3. 4 5000. 6 7. 8. 9. 10000.
YARDS.

Ordnance Survey, Southampton, 1911.

MAP OF GOZO



Ordnance Survey, Southampton, 1911.

COLONIAL REPORTS, &c.

The following recent reports, &c., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, &c.	Year.
652	Bechuanaland Protectorate	1909–1910
653	Ceylon	1909
654	Gold Coast	"
655	Nyasaland	1909–1910
656	Imperial Institute	1909
657	Fiji	"
658	Grenada	"
659	Hong Kong	"
660	Barbados	1909–1910
661	Swaziland	"
662	Jamaica	"
663	Straits Settlements	1909
664	Trinidad and Tobago	1909–1910
665	Southern Nigeria	1909
666	Mauritius	"
667	British Honduras	"
668	St. Vincent	1909–1910
669	East Africa Protectorate	"
670	Uganda	"
671	British Guiana	"
672	St. Lucia	1909
673	Leeward Islands	1909–1910
674	Northern Nigeria	1909
675	St. Helena	1910
676	Gibraltar	"
677	Basutoland	1909–1910
678	Weihaiwei	1910
679	Gambia	"
680	Ashanti	"
681	Turks and Caicos Islands	"
682	Falkland Islands	"
683	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	"
684	Bahamas	1910–1911
685	Colonial Survey Committee	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, &c.	Subject.
69	St. Helena	Fisheries.
70	Colonies	List of Laws relating to Patents, Trade Marks, &c.
71	Imperial Institute	Foodstuffs.
72	Fiji	Hurricane, 1910.
73	Jamaica	Cayman Islands.
74	Ceylon	Mineral Survey 1906–7 and 1907–8.
75	West Indies	Imperial Department of Agriculture.
76	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1907–8.
77	St. Vincent	Roads and Land Settlement Fund.

SEP 25 1911

LONDON:
PRINTED FOR HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE,
By DARLING & SON, Ltd., 34-40, Bacon Street, E.

1911.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 731.

MALTA.

REPORT FOR 1911-12.

(For Report for 1910–11, *see* No. 686.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
September, 1912.

LONDON:
PUBLISHED BY HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE.
To be purchased, either directly or through any Bookseller, from
WYMAN AND SONS, LIMITED, FETTER LANE, E.C., and
32, ABINGDON STREET, S.W.; or
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T. FISHER UNWIN, LONDON, W.C.

PRINTED BY
DARLING AND SON, LTD., BACON STREET, E.
1912.

[Cd. 6007—31.] *Price* 5*d.*

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Malta.

Gozo.

No. 731.

MALTA.

(For Report for 1910–11, *see* No. 686.)

THE GOVERNOR TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

The Palace,
Valletta,
19th August, 1912.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward, for your information, the accompanying report by the Acting Lieutenant-Governor and Chief Secretary to Government on the Malta Blue Book for the year 1911-12.

I have, &c.,

LESLIE RUNDLE,
Governor.

The Right Honourable
L. Harcourt, M.P.,
&c., &c., &c.

(26123—2.) Wt. 29478—571. 1125 & 90. 9/12. D & S. A 2

Lieutenant-Governor's Office,
Malta,
19th August, 1912.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to submit the following report on the annual Blue Book for the year 1911-12.

I.—FINANCIAL.

REVENUE.

The revenue for the year 1911-12 was £448,114, and the expenditure £467,783; there was, therefore, an excess of expenditure over revenue of £19,669.

The total amount of duty paid on articles imported for His Majesty's Naval and Military Services, and subsequently refunded to the Imperial Government as drawback, was £24,706. The actual revenue for the year was, therefore, £423,408, and the actual expenditure £443,077.

The surplus standing to the credit of the Government on the 1st April, 1912, was £69,558, as against £89,228 on the corresponding date of the previous year.

The following table shows the revenue and the expenditure of the Colony for the past five years:—

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1907-8	438,348	454,669
1908-9	457,520	445,014
1909-10	436,209	458,013
1910-11	441,444	467,373
1911-12	448,114	467,783

The estimated revenue for the year was £441,433, and the revenue collected £448,114; the receipts, therefore, exceeded the estimate by £6,681.

The principal items, as compared with the previous year, 1910-11, calling for notice are:—

Increases.

(*a.*) *Customs* (£3,085).—Due chiefly to increased importation of flour owing to a fall in prices, and to the importation during the second half year of an extraordinary quantity of leaf tobacco.

(*b.*) *Harbour and Quarantine Dues* (£642).—Due to an increase in quarantine dues collected.

(*c.*) *Licences, Court Fines, &c.* (£727).—Due principally to an increase in the number of licences for the retail of wines and spirits, and licences to carry fire-arms, and to heavier fines inflicted by the Superior Courts.

(*d.*) *Fees of Court* (£431).—Due mainly to an increase in the number of acts filed in the Superior Courts and of judgments delivered by those courts.

(*e.*) *Post Office* (£667).—Due chiefly to the issue of postage stamps in accordance with the new colour scheme, the demand for the new varieties being considerable; increase in the number of parcels received; and part payment of an outstanding balance due by the Ottoman Postal Administration for International Transit Rates.

(*f.*) *Water Supply* (£323.)—Due to heavier consumption by the Navy and Army.

(*g.*) *Rents* (£596.)—Due to collection of arrears of previous years.

(*h.*) *Interest* (£651).—Due mainly to the fact that the profit realised by the Savings Bank was greater than in the previous year, owing to income-tax paid on dividends received in 1910-11 having been refunded in 1911-12 instead of 1912-13.

Decreases.

The only important decrease is under "Fees of Office and Reimbursements" (£1,054), and is due to the following causes:—falling off in the sale of badges for dogs; fewer students in the University and Lyceum; diminution in the Public Registry fees; and shrinkage of abattoir fees.

Expenditure.

The expenditure for 1911-12 amounted to £467,783, made up as follows:—

Establishments:—

	£	£
Personal Emoluments ...	169,095	
Other Charges	126,276	
		295,371
Interest		22,596
Pensions		24,215
Military Expenditure		5,000
Miscellaneous Services		39,378
Public Works		81,223
		£467,783

The total expenditure fell short of the estimate by £10,215, but exceeded that of the previous year by £410.

The following are the heads under which an increase occurred:—

	£
Interest and Burthens	531
Pensions	925
Customs and Port Department	587
Police	1,006
Public Health Department	558
Charitable Institutions	2,551

The main causes of increase are as follows:—

(*a.*) *Interest and Burthens.*—Due to payment in 1911-12 of interest on "Massa Frumentaria" which remained unpaid in previous years, and to the dividends on Colonial securities having been paid free of income-tax during the latter half of 1911-12 owing to which more interest was paid to the Savings Bank.

(*b.*) *Pensions.*—The amount of pensions and gratuities granted during the year exceeded the amount of those that ceased.

(*c.*) *Customs and Port Department.*—Due principally to purchase of motor boats, expenditure in connection with quarantine restrictions, and special repairs to the revenue ketch.

(*d.*) *Police.*—Due mainly to periodical increments of salaries; triennial supply of capes and blankets; training of two officers with Royal Irish Constabulary; purchase of bicycles; and increased expenditure on transport in connection with the Coronation festivities and the visit of Their Majesties the King and Queen.

(*e.*) *Public Health Department.*—Due to extraordinary expenses incurred in connection with the prevalence of cholera.

(*f.*) *Charitable Institutions.*—Attributable chiefly to expenditure incurred in the employment of additional medical men, servants, and attendants, owing to the prevalence of cholera; increased expenditure on provisions, clothing, bedding, &c., due to the addition of nurses and beds in the Connaught Hospital; increase in the number of patients in the lunatic asylum; improvement in the scale of rations of attendants and servants at the poor-house and lunatic asylum; purchase of a complete equipment for the Female Leper Hospital.

The expenditure on public works amounted to £81,223, as against £97,127 in 1910-11.

The assets and liabilities of the Government on 31st March, 1912, as compared with the assets and liabilities on the same date in 1911, were:—

Year.	Assets.	Liabilities.	Surplus.
	£	£	£
1910-11	757,331	668,103	89,228
1911-12	725,401	655,843	69,558
Decrease	31,930	12,260	19,670

The decrease in the assets is due to the sale of securities to meet Treasury requirements.

The amount of British coin in circulation in the Colony on 31st March, 1912, is roughly estimated at £490,000.

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

The total declared value of goods imported, exclusive of bullion, specie, and of goods imported for transhipment, was £2,413,687, made up as follows:—

	£
From the United Kingdom	1,011,140
,, British Possessions	61,971
,, Foreign Countries	1,340,576
	£2,413,687

The principal imports from the United Kingdom during 1911-12 were:—

Coal, £348,704; iron and steel manufactures, £36,313; flour and semola, £69,370; cotton goods, £68,781; wheat, £41,714; beer, £40,473; preserved meat, £29,975; butter and substitutes, £27,444; potatoes, £22,401; woollen goods, £21,074; fish, preserved and fresh, £19,411; spirits, £16,091; cheese, £13,308; sugar, £12,924; yarn, £12,076; tobacco (cigarettes), £10,781; milk, condensed or preserved, £10,573; boots and shoes, £10,305; books and stationery, £9,209; drugs, chemical and apothecaries' ware, £8,453; earthenware and chinaware, £7,844; biscuits, £7,038; apparel and slops, £7,031; confectionery, £6,223; paints and colours, £6,005; soap, £5,971; bullion and specie, £130,000.

From British Possessions:—Beef and mutton, frozen or preserved, £33,378; tea, £7,168; fish, preserved, £2,659.

From Foreign Countries:—Wheat, £296,199; bullocks and other animals of the kind, £104,460; wine, £80,238; sugar, £70,271; beans, £46,588; petroleum, £41,994; tobacco (unmanufactured), £40,249; caravances, £38,878; oil (cotton seed), £26,878; cheese, £27,280; coffee, £25,253; soap, £24,830; wood and timber, £23,316; cotton goods, £22,283; fruit (fresh or preserved), £21,596; iron and steel manufactures, £19,563; lard, £17,899; cotton seed, £17,470; charcoal, £17,308; saggina, £16,652; fish (fresh or preserved), £16,129; oil, olive and other edible oils, £15,068; woollen goods, £14,589; leather and manufactures thereof, £14,213; flour and semola, £13,055; spirits, £12,499; silk goods, £11,593; carob beans, £11,424; paper for printing, £11,037; butter and substitutes, £8,839; rice, £7,634; cocoa and chocolate, £7,490; milk (condensed and preserved), £7,485; swine, £6,930; glass and glassware, £6,166; yarn, £5,369; barley, £4,915; potatoes, £4,743; bullion and specie, £71,162.

The following table shows the net amount of duty collected on each dutiable article, as compared with the amount received in 1910-11:—

—	1910-11.	1911-12.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Beer	19,376	19,214	—	162
Bullocks and other animals of the kind.	7,229	7,575	346	—
Grains :—				
Barley	547	405	—	142
Indian corn	20	90	70	—
Inferior grain...	51	26	—	25
Saggina	1,877	1,802	—	75
Wheat	70,335	64,544	—	5,791
Damaged	8	21	13	—
Grain, Manufactured :—				
Biscuits	502	534	32	—
Flour and semola	18,317	30,816	12,499	—
Malt and malt extract ...	239	324	85	—
Other kinds	282	332	50	—
Damaged	18	18	—	—
Horses	284	272	—	12
Meat :—				
Beef and mutton	1,366	*—	—	*1,418
Methylated spirits	51	64	13	—
Mules	25	1	—	24
Oil :—				
Cotton seed	2,174	2,353	179	—
Olive and other edible oils ...	668	363	—	305
Petroleum	9,159	8,351	—	808
Potatoes	2,759	2,756	—	3
Beans	3,493	2,925	—	568
Other pulse	156	142	—	14
Caravances	1,429	1,768	339	—
Seeds :—				
Carob beans	800	778	—	22
Cotton seed	567	797	230	—
Sheep	63	17	—	46
Spirits	26,447	25,888	—	559
Sugar	6,364	5,938	—	426
Tobacco :—				
Cigars	592	389	—	203
Cigarettes	3,010	3,347	337	—
Cavendish and Negrohead ...	535	358	—	177
Other manufactured Tobacco	445	498	53	—
Unmanufactured	7,659	11,696	4,037	—
Snuff	1	1	—	—
Varnish	25	29	4	—
Vinegar	38	43	5	—
Wine (Import duties)	35,536	29,130	—	6,406
„ (Excise duties)	—	24	24	—
Total	222,447	223,557*	18,316	17,186

* £52 was refunded in excess of the duty received on meat, owing to drawback having been paid, during 1911-12, on this item, duty on which was collected during 1910-11.

The only increases which deserve special notice are £12,499 on flour and semola, due to a rise in the price of wheat rendering the importation of flour profitable, and £4,037 on unmanufactured tobacco, probably in anticipation of possible changes in the rates of duty.

The important decreases are £5,791 on wheat, explained by the increased importation of flour, and £6,406 on wine, attributable to a shrinkage in consumption.

The total declared value of goods exported (exclusive of transhipments) was £750,422, made up as follows:—

—	Local Produce	Imported goods re-exported.	Total.
	£	£	£
To United Kingdom	21,568	8,216	29,784
To British Possessions	6,003	1,404	7,407
To Foreign Countries	242,989	116,086	359,075
Bunker coals shipped on merchant vessels.	—	354,156	354,156
Total	270,560	470,862	750,422

The principal exports to the United Kingdom and British Possessions were:—agricultural produce, £11,769; cigarettes, £6,760; hides and skins (raw), £5,185; old metal, £1,558; bullion and specie, £28,501; and to foreign countries:—agricultural produce, £150,025; cigars and cigarettes, £12,401; hides and skins (raw), £13,366; old metal, £12,844; cotton goods, £12,831; bullion and specie, £208,921.

The total area of land under cultivation was practically the same as in the previous year, viz., 41,866 acres, while the area of uncultivated land was estimated at 4,707 acres, as against 4,737 in 1910-11.

At the end of the year the number of holdings was estimated at 11,091 (the average acreage being 3·7 acres per holding), as against 11,087 in 1910-11. The principal agricultural products were cereals, including wheat, barley, and "mischiato" (a mixture of both), forage, and potatoes. The total area under cereals was 13,444 acres, as against 13,722 acres in 1910-11, and the total yield in the past two years was as follows:—

Year.	Wheat.	Barley.	Mischiato.	Total.
	Qrs.	Qrs.	Qrs.	Qrs.
1910–11	19,722	10,582	6,256	36,560
1911–12	12,449	6,808	3,200	22,457
Total	32,171	17,390	9,456	59,017

The area under beans and other pulse was 2,004 acres, as compared with 2,050 acres in 1910-11, and the total yield was 3,902 quarters, as against 4,124 quarters in the previous year. The area planted with tubers was 4,147 acres (as against 3,676 acres in 1910-11), and the total yield was 448,454 cwts., as compared with 350,588 cwts. in 1910-11, an increase of 97,866 cwts.

The importation of potatoes, as compared with that of the previous year, shows a decrease of 1,896 cwts. The quantity imported in the year under review was 113,234 cwts., of which 79,084 cwts. were used as seed, and 34,150 cwts. consumed locally.

The area planted with onions was 874 acres, against 1,058 acres in the previous year. The yield amounted to 4,750 tons, as compared with 5,460 tons in 1910-11.

Cummin seed was planted on 1,594 acres, against 2,424 acres. The total yield amounted to 11,430 cwts., a decrease of 2,435 cwts. on the yield of the previous year.

The total quantity of oranges, lemons, and mandarines gathered is estimated at 176,000 dozen, as compared with 196,000 dozen, a decrease of 20,000 dozen.

The acreage of land under cotton was 1,100 acres, as against 903 acres in 1910-11. The total yield was 187,340 lbs. (an average of 170 lbs. per acre), against 196,448 lbs. (an average of 217 lbs. per acre) in 1910-11. The average price obtained was 6½*d.* per lb. The quantity exported was 122,041 lbs. Of this, 22,015 lbs. were exported to the United Kingdom, and the balance to Germany and Italy.

11,426 acres were under clover, barley (cut in the green stage), vetches, &c., as compared with 11,426 acres in 1910-11. The total yield amounted to 335,600 loads of 10 bundles each, as against 297,150 loads in the previous year. The quality was good; the crop, however, was partially damaged by rain.

There was an outbreak of the fluted scale insect (*Icherya Purchasi*), chiefly at Sliema and St. Julian's. Drastic measures were adopted to stamp out the disease, many trees being cut down and burnt. The "*Novius Cardinalis*," the natural enemy of this insect, was introduced and distributed to infested gardens. By the close of the autumn the scourge had practically been overcome.

Shipping.

The number and tonnage of steamers and sailing vessels which entered and cleared during the past two years are as follows:—

	1911–12.		1910–11.		Increase + Decrease −	
	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.
Steamers—						
Entered ...	2,424	4,091,238	2,391	4,305,478	+ 33	−214,240
Cleared ...	2,422	4,094,902	2,385	4,297,592	+ 37	−202,690
Sailing Vessels—						
Entered ...	507	27,933	688	32,258	−161	− 4,275
Cleared ...	489	26,697	663	31,709	−174	− 5,012
Total ...	5,842	8,240,820	6,107	8,667,037	−265	−426,217

The number of British steamers which called at Malta during the year under review was 997, as against 1,026 in the preceding year, and their tonnage was 2,219,643, as against 2,399,939, giving a decrease of 29 in ships and 180,296 in tonnage.

The number of foreign steamers was 1,427, with a tonnage of 1,871,595, as against 1,365, with a tonnage of 1,905,539 in 1910-11. There was, therefore, an increase of 62 in foreign ships, and a decrease of 33,944 in tonnage.

The nationality of foreign steamers which called at Malta during the years 1910-11 and 1911-12 was as follows:—

Nationality.	Number of Steamers.		Tonnage.	
	1910-11.	1911-12.	1910-11.	1911-12.
Austrian	508*	564*	393,698	489,617
Belgian	16	17	24,545	25,322
Danish	6	6	3,969	6,007
French	56	59	84,643	110,415
German	397	374	890,793	785,542
Greek	66	35	96,908	50,012
Dutch	61	62	71,953	72,210
Italian	223	265	291,995	266,367
Norwegian	12	21	17,662	32,195
Swedish	13	17	22,125	30,051
Miscellaneous	7	7	7,248	3,857

* Including the subsidised daily mail steamer.

The number and tonnage of British and foreign steamers which entered and cleared with cargoes in 1911-12, as distinguished from vessels in ballast, are as follows:—

——	British.		Foreign.		Total.	
	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.
Entered	482	1,036,869	923	964,192	1,405	2,001,061
Cleared	367	840,809	830	892,445	1,197	1,733,254
Total	849	1,877,678	1,753	1,856,637	2,602	3,734,315

The total net revenue collected by the Government from tonnage dues was £6,236, as against £6,433, showing a decrease of £197 in the year under review.

The totals of the shipping entered and cleared during the last five years are as follows:—

Year.	Entered.		Cleared.	
	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.
1907-08	3,254	3,792,495	3,224	3,744,268
1908-09	3,212	4,036,752	3,205	4,027,000
1909-10	2,892	3,755,095	2,979	3,750,241
1910-11	3,059	4,337,736	3,048	4,329,301
1911-12	2,931	4,119,221	2,911	4,121,599

Fisheries.

The data that could be obtained show a decrease of 679 cantars compared with the quantity of fish caught in the previous year.

Five hundred and sixty-three open boats are engaged in this industry. The number of hands employed is estimated at 1,500.

III.—LEGISLATION.

Twelve Ordinances were passed by the Council of Government during the year under review, of which only those mentioned hereunder are of sufficient importance to be specially noticed in this report.

Ordinance No. VII. of 1911 amends Ordinance No. VII. of 1909 relating to the management and the regulation of Customs.

Ordinance No. IX. of 1911 amends several articles of the Criminal Laws, and introduces important amendments in regard to the provisions relating to the punishments for contraventions, relapsers, adultery, and criminal procedure.

Ordinance No. XI. of 1911 amends the law relating to the manufacture of spirits and makes provision for other purposes connected therewith.

Ordinance No. XII. of 1911 makes provision for regulating the manufacture of artificial wine in these islands and other purposes connected therewith.

Ordinance No. XIII. of 1911, by which certain powers were conferred on the Commissioners appointed by His Majesty the King to enquire into the finances, economic condition, and judicial procedure of Malta.

Ordinance No. XIV. of 1911 amends Ordinance No. III. of 1904 (the Third Sanitary Ordinance, 1904), relating to food and drugs and drinking water.

IV.—EDUCATION.

The number of day schools in Malta and Gozo was 101, as shown below:—

—	Malta.	Gozo.	Total.
Boys	29	9	38
Girls	30	9	39
Infants	9	1	10
Drawing (boys)	5	—	5
„ (girls)	5	—	5
Modelling and wood-carving	3	—	3
Sunday school (secular instruction) ...	1	—	1
Total	82	19	101

Infant classes or divisions are also attached to most of the girls' schools.

The number of night schools in the two islands was 42, including five drawing schools—33 in Malta and nine in Gozo.

The number of children admitted to the day schools was 6,258, and the number of those who left school was 5,793, as against 7,310 and 5,758, respectively, in 1910-11; the number of pupils admitted to the night schools was 3,393, as compared with 3,026 in the previous year.

Of the pupils who left school, 34 (17 boys and 17 girls) were appointed monitors and monitresses in the Government schools, 25 passed to the Lyceum, eight were successful at the competitive examinations held during the year for apprenticeships in His Majesty's Dockyard, 29 were admitted to the Archiepiscopal Seminary in Malta and the Episcopal Seminary in Gozo, one passed into the electrical engineering class in the Lyceum, and 10 were appointed apprentice gardeners in public gardens, after a competitive examination.

The number of children who left school during the year before reaching Standard III. was 2,833, as against 2,846 in 1910-11; no less than 1,043 children left school under seven years of age, and 2,788 more left between the ages of seven and ten.

The enrolment in the day schools in September, 1911, was 19,282, as against 18,957 in the previous year. The night schools were attended by 2,666 pupils at the beginning of the scholastic year (October, 1911), as compared with 2,719 on the corresponding date in 1910.

A return taken on the 31st March, 1912, showed that over 3,000 children were seeking admission to the elementary and infant schools in the various districts, and that accommodation could be found for only 1,364 pupils by the end of July, 1912, leaving nearly 2,000 who could not be admitted for want of accommodation.

The total number of pupils in the day and night schools (including the Sunday School) at the beginning of the scholastic year was 21,983, as against 21,715 in 1910-11.

The average annual enrolment was 20,536, and the average annual attendance 16,755, as against 19,658 and 16,378, respectively, in 1910-11. The percentage of attendance to enrolment was 81·6, as against 83·3 in 1910-11. The highest enrolment was 23,967, and the lowest 16,899, as compared with 23,051 and 16,437, respectively, in the previous year.

Out of 5,440 parents or guardians who were invited to select the language of colloquial instruction for their children or wards on their being admitted to the schools, or on their being promoted to Standards I. and II., 97·5 per cent. chose English, and 2·5 per cent. chose Italian, as against 97·7 per cent. for English and 2·3 per cent. for Italian in 1910-11.

In the case of admissions or promotions to Standard III., out of 3,022 parents or guardians who selected the secondary language of instruction for their children or wards, 99·0 per cent. chose English, and 1 per cent. Italian, as against 99·3 per cent. who

elected for English and 0·7 per cent. for Italian in the previous year.

The number of parents or guardians of pupils attending the higher standards who were called upon to choose the language in which their children or wards should be examined was 2,430, as against 2,409 in 1910-11. Of these, 74·3 per cent. selected English only, 25·3 per cent. chose English and Italian, and 0·4 per cent. were for Italian only. The corresponding percentages in the previous year were 75·0, 24·7, and 0·3, respectively.

The number of pupils borne on the rolls on the day of examination was 16,292, as against 16,235 in 1910-11. The number individually examined was 15,543, of whom 14,048, or 90·4 per cent., obtained passes, with an average percentage of 82·3 marks, as against 15,100 pupils examined in 1910-11, of whom 13,209, or 87·4 per cent. had passes, with an average percentage of 78·9 marks.

The strength of the teaching staff during the year was as follows:—

Headmasters	38
Headmistresses	49
Probationary Teachers	4
Assistant Teachers (males)	220
Monitors	45
Assistant Teachers (females)...	290
Monitresses	110
Teachers of drawing, dress-cutting, lace-making	10
Total	766

One male student was sent to St. Mary's Training College, Hammersmith, for training, and two female students to the Training College, St. Charles's Square, London. Satisfactory reports were received on the work of the students who were sent to Hammersmith and St. Charles's Training Colleges in 1910.

Sixteen male and fourteen female teachers attended a special preparatory training class for young teachers desirous of proceeding to England for training, which was started in November 1911.

The total cost of the Elementary Schools was £28,265, as compared with £27,958 in 1910-11. Of the expenditure in 1911-12, £24,655 was for "Personal Emoluments" and £3,610 for "Other Charges," as against £24,384 and £3,574, respectively, in the previous year.

The average cost per pupil, calculated on the number of pupils on the rolls at the beginning of the scholastic year, was 25*s.* 8½*d.*; calculated on the daily average enrolment, 27*s.* 6*d.*; and calculated on the daily average attendance, 33*s.* 9*d.*; as against 25*s.* 9*d.*, 28*s.* 5*d.*, and 34*s.* 2*d.*, respectively, in 1910-11.

As the scholastic year in the University, Lyceum, and Secondary School for Girls commences in October, the returns for these institutions are a year behindhand.

An average of 175 students attended the Secondary School for Girls in 1910-11, as against 201 in the preceding year. The average percentage of attendance was 84. In the preceding year it was 86.

The average daily attendance in the Secondary School for Boys, Gozo, was 66, as against 57 in the previous year, and the percentage of attendance was 94, the same as in the previous year.

The daily average number of students in the Lyceum was 484, as against 537 in 1909-10, while the percentage of attendance was the same as in the previous year, viz., 82.

The number of boys admitted in 1910-11 was 81, out of 152 candidates, as against 93 out of 178 candidates in the previous year.

At the annual examinations held in July, 1911, 314 students were examined in English, and 306 in Italian, the number of passes in English being 168 or 54 per cent., and 131 or 43 per cent. in Italian.

The average number of students who attended the University was 149, against 222 in the previous year.

Ninety-two candidates entered for the Matriculation Examination held in 1911. Of these, 33 were successful.

The average cost of education per student was as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
Secondary School (Girls)	2	3	7
,, ,, (Boys)	5	15	2
Lyceum	6	0	1
University	27	17	4

while the average fees paid by each of the students in the different institutions were as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
Secondary School (Girls)	2	12	0
,, ,, (Boys)	Nil.		
Lyceum	1	16	5
University	10	5	0

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

The total number of persons admitted into the hospitals and maintained in the other charitable institutions of Malta and Gozo (exclusive of staff) was 7,422, as compared with 8,182 in 1910-11. In addition to these, 130,699 persons were attended by the district medical officers at the Government dispensaries or at their own homes, as against 119,893 in 1910-11; and pecuniary assistance amounting to £4,123 was given to 4,221 persons, as against £3,549 given to 4,696 persons in the previous year.

The total cost of the charitable institutions in the two Islands (exclusive of works) was £71,018, as against £70,968 in 1910-11.

The following table gives details regarding persons treated in hospitals, poor-houses, and asylums in the two Islands during 1911-12:—

—	No. of inmates, on 1st April, 1911.	No of admissions during the year.	Total.	No. discharged.	No. of deaths.	Remaining on 1st April, 1912.
Hospitals :—						
General Hospital	235	2,782	3,017	2,617	203	197
Seamen's Hospital	13	79	92	84	1	7
Santo Spirito Hospital	72	531	603	490	43	70
Connaught Hospital	72	345	417	264	61	92
Manoel Hospital	3	172	175	122	48	5
Gozo Hospital	44	602	646	541	58	47
Contagious Diseases Hospital, Gozo.	—	8	8	8	—	—
Poor-houses :—						
Malta Poor-house	996	271	1,267	102	182	983
Gozo Poor-house	146	41	187	7	27	153
Asylums :—						
Lunatic Asylum	758	124	882	75	47	760
Orphan Asylum	105	23	128	21	—	107
Total	2,444	4,978	7,422	4,331	670	2,421

The number of depositors in the Savings Bank on the 31st March, 1912, was 7,559, and the amount standing to their credit £542,851, of which £538,644 was invested in British and other securities.

The deposits made during the year amounted to £120,887, and the withdrawals to £137,872, as against £131,383 and £130,241, respectively, in the previous year.

The expenses of management and the interest credited to depositors amounted to £11,030, whilst the revenue from interest on invested funds, unappropriated interest, and sale of pass-books was £18,649, leaving a net profit of £7,619.

VI.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

The nominal strength of the Police Force on 31st March, 1912, was 36 officers and 508 non-commissioned officers and men, and the actual strength was 32 officers and 493 non-commissioned officers and men.

The total number of licences issued or renewed by the police in 1911-12 was 2,542, as against 2,631 in the previous year; and the total amount collected by the Government in respect of wines and spirits licences was £3,445, as against £3,267 in 1910-11.

The number of surety bonds signed under the Aliens Law was 194. The number of female immigrants, the majority of whom were Sicilians, was 90, of whom 28 were registered as housewives. Fourteen undesirable aliens were expelled during the year, as against 31 in the previous year.

The following table gives the total number of persons imprisoned in 1911-12:—

—	Remaining on 1st April, 1911.	Admitted in 1911–12.	Total.	Discharged.	Died.	Remaining on 31st Mar. 1912.
Malta—						
Criminal prisoners ...	310	10,584	10,894	10,593	—	301
Debtors	3	8	11	11	—	—
Gozo—						
Criminal prisoners ...	13	1,055	1,068	1,067	—	1
Debtors	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	326	11,647	11,973	11,671	—	302

The number of persons, exclusive of debtors, admitted during the year was 11,639, as against 10,266 in 1910-11.

The following table shows the number of males and females imprisoned in the Malta and Gozo prisons during the past two years:—

—	1910–11.			1911–12.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Malta—						
From Local Courts	8,717	773	9,490	9,488	1,090	10,578
„ Courts Martial	1	—	1	1	—	1
„ Consular Courts	—	—	—	5	—	5
Gozo—						
From Local Courts	754	21	775	982	19	1,001
Total	9,472	794	10,266	10,476	1,109	11,585

The general health of the prisoners was satisfactory. Nineteen prisoners were admitted to the prison infirmary during the year; and the daily average on the sick list, including prisoners on medical diet not admitted into hospital, was 29·72, as against 19 in the previous year.

The number of prison offences was 1,441, as against 1,037 in 1910-11, and the punishments inflicted were as follows:—

Reprimanded	183
Deprived of mattress	11
Solitary confinement in cell	596
Punishment diet	627
Punishment diet and deprived of mattress	18
Loss of gratuity money	6
	1,441

The increase of 404 in the number of offences was due to the fact that the daily population in the prison was greater than in 1910-11.

The prisoners were employed on various kinds of work, *e.g.*, stone-breaking, pumping water, cultivation of prison lands, and attending on sick prisoners; and those who knew a trade were employed as tailors, mat and broom makers, joiners, masons, stainers, tinmen, and plumbers.

The receipts of the Malta Prison were as follows:—

	£
Consular and Naval convicts	164
Sale of prison manufactures	232
Sale of produce of prison lands	193
Total	£589

The total cost of the prisons for 1911-12 (exclusive of the Valletta Lock-up) was £5,118, viz.: Malta Prison, £4,955; Gozo Prison, £163.

The total number of offences reported to the police in the past two years is shown below, viz.:—

	1910-11.	1911-12.
Offences against the person	7,706	6,500
Offences against the good order of families	163	103
Offences against property	4,155	3,836
Other offences	29,054	29,303
Total	41,078	39,742

showing a net decrease of 1,336 offences in 1911-12.

The total number of offences dealt with by the Courts of Judicial Police in Malta and Gozo was 26,252, made up as follows:—

—	Malta.	Gozo.	Total.
Crimes	648	69	717
Contraventions	23,544	1,991	25,535
Total	24,192	2,060	26,252

The number of offences not dealt with by the courts was, therefore, 13,490, or 35 per cent. of the total number reported, while the number of crimes the perpetrators of which were not discovered, was 153, or 17 per cent. of the total number reported, which was 870.

The total number of persons summoned before the magistrates was 26,252, as against 27,150 in the previous year, a decrease of 898. They were dealt with as follows:—

Summarily convicted	25,037
Committed for trial	92
Acquitted	207
Discharged for want of evidence or in default of prosecution	916
Total	26,252

The punishments inflicted on the persons who were summarily convicted were as follows:—

Imprisoned	725
Fined	20,522
Fined and imprisoned	23
Bound over	388
Admonished	3,379
Total	25,037

The number of persons admonished (3,379) was 13 per cent. of the number summarily convicted, as against 17 per cent. in the preceding year.

The total number of persons tried by the Criminal Court during 1911-12 was 92, as against 152 in the previous year, and the results were as stated below:—

	1910-11.	1911-12.
Convicted	115	72
Acquitted	37	20
Total	152	92

The crimes of the persons convicted may be classified as follows:—

Attempt to murder	3
Other offences against the person	14
Offences against property	28
Offences against the good order of families	9
Miscellaneous offences	18
Total	72

Of the 1,624 cases instituted in the Civil Court, First Hall, 856 were for the determination of a point of fact or law, and the rest for the recovery of sums of money amounting in the aggregate to £27,466.

In the Commercial Court 980 cases were introduced, of which 273 were for the determination of a point of fact or law, and the rest for the recovery of sums of money, amounting in the aggregate to £30,456, whereof £4,987 in bankruptcy proceedings.

The business transacted in the Civil Court, Second Hall, was as follows:—

Applications disposed of	1,566
Secret wills deposited	32
Secret wills withdrawn	11
Deposits made	£1,427

The number of cases pending in the Superior Courts on the 31st March, 1912, was 998, as shown below:—

Civil Court, First Hall (two judges)	601
Commercial Court (one judge)	136
Court of Appeal (three judges)	169
Court of Appeal (appeals from Inferior Courts in civil cases, one judge)	7
Court of Appeal (appeals from Inferior Courts in criminal cases, one judge)	16
Criminal Court (one judge)	69
Total	998

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

The civil population on the 1st April, 1912, was estimated at 215,332, as against 213,395 on the corresponding date in 1911 (Census day).

The total number of births in the two years was as follows:—

	1910-11.	1911-12.
Males	4,073	3,840
Females	3,634	3,371
Total	7,707	7,211

In 1911-12 the birth-rate was 33·49 per mille, as compared with 36·12 per mille in 1910-11. The average birth-rate for the last 12 years was 37·97 per mille.

The total number of deaths was as follows:—

	1910-11.	1911-12.
Males	2,386	2,798
Females	2,226	2,488
Total	4,612	5,286

The death-rate of the civil population in 1911-12 was 24·42 per mille, as against 21·42 in 1910-11.

The number of marriages was 1,016, as against 971 in the preceding year.

The general state of health of the Island during the year was satisfactory except for an extensive epidemic of measles and some cases of cholera.

The following table shows the number of cases of infectious diseases reported, and the number of deaths from each disease, including cases and deaths in the Fleet and Garrison, during the past two years:—

	1910–11.		1911–12.	
	No. of cases.	No. of deaths.	No. of cases.	No. of deaths.
Asiatic cholera	—	—	116	85
Chicken-pox	189	—	190	—
Diphtheria	64	12	38	9
Enteric fever	127	28	248	59
Erysipelas	90	9	58	4
Puerperal fever	17	6	17	11
Influenza	620	9	75	3
Malarial fever	8	—	9	1
Measles	15	—	2,891	144
Mediterranean fever	300	35	277	26
Scarlet fever	13	—	42	—
Small-pox	43	4	17	2
Tubercular phthisis	244	167	238	155
Whooping-cough	260	8	38	1
Total	1,990	278	4,244	500

Of the seven small-pox cases, two were landed from ships. The usual preventive measures were successful in checking the spread of the infection.

There was an increase in the number of enteric cases, which were scattered over a considerable part of the Island. The distribution of the cases in time and locality excludes all suspicions of contamination of the public water supply.

There was a considerable epidemic of measles which is mainly responsible for the increase in the infantile death-rate.

Cholera infection was conveyed with the immigration of some 2,000 refugees from Tripoli and Cyrenaica. The outbreak was of a very short duration and very limited in extent. The preventive measures taken were successful in stamping out the disease.

Mediterranean fever still shows a decrease among the civil population, and has practically ceased altogether in the Fleet and Garrison.

During the year, 15,341 goats and sheep were inspected by the Sanitary Authorities; 386 were found infected and destroyed.

The number of vaccinations performed by district medical officers in Malta and Gozo was 4,923, of which 4,762 were successful.

The death-rate amongst children under 12 months was 267·21 per 1,000 births, as against 236·93 in the previous year. There

was a slight increase in the death-rate of children under five years.

The following works under the general drainage scheme were carried out during the year, viz.:—

Completing the laying of street sewers at Victoria, Gozo;
Constructing a portion of the intercepting sewer at Ghain-sielem, Gozo;
Constructing a portion of the street sewers at Tarxen, Paula, and Zeitun;
Completing the intercepting sewer at Attard;
Completing the intercepting sewer and street sewers at Curmi;
Constructing a portion of the sewer at the Lazaretto.

The meteorological returns for 1911-12 are summarised in the following table:—

Month.	Temperature.					Rainfall.		Winds.	
	Solar Maximum.	Shade Maximum.	Shade Minimum.	Mean Daily Range.	Mean Temperature.	No. of Inches.	Mean percentage humidity.	General Directions.	Average Force.
1911.									
April	145·2	73·2	37·9	13·4	57·5	1·866	79·5	W. & S.	2·9
May	149·5	79·8	44·0	13·4	62·9	1·160	80·0	W. & N.W.	3·0
June	155·0	90·1	52·2	17·1	71·3	0·113	70·1	N. & S.	2·0
July	152·8	94·5	59·1	14·5	77·4	—	71·5	N. & N.W.	1·7
August ...	162·5	95·0	65·0	15·9	80·2	—	73·2	N. & S.	1·3
September ...	157·2	93·0	60·5	13·9	74·9	2·940	73·1	N.W. & S.	1·5
October ...	151·0	85·8	52·5	12·4	69·5	0·220	70·9	S.E. & S.	2·0
November ...	149·0	76·0	45·5	10·6	62·1	10·399	78·9	S. & N.E.	2·2
December ...	137·2	72·5	42·2	10·8	57·3	2·136	79·0	N.W. & N.	2·4
1912.									
January ...	137·5	68·0	38·0	9·3	53·8	3·949	80·9	S. & S.E.	2·4
February ...	138·9	73·0	42·0	12·3	54·9	0·638	80·1	S.W. & N.W.	2·3
March ...	135·8	75·0	41·0	14·2	57·1	·809	82·6	N.W. & N.	2·5

The highest temperature in the shade was 95°·0 at Zurrico on the 25th August, 1911, and the lowest 37°·9 at Zeitun on the 16th January, 1912. The mean temperature for the year was 63°·2, as compared with 65°·3 in 1910-11. The mean temperature for the summer months (June, July, August, September) was 75°·9. In 1910-11 it was 77°·1. The mean temperature for the winter months (January, February, March) was 55°·3, or 1°·6 above that of the preceding year.

The total rainfall was 24·230 inches. The prevailing winds were N.W. on 54 days, S. on 46 days, W. on 40 days, and N. on 32 days. The average velocity of winds per hour was 8·7 miles. The average number of hours of bright sunshine per day was 8·6, as compared with 8·2 in the preceding year.

Earthquakes were felt locally on the 30th September, 16th October, and 15th November, 1911. The earthquake on the 30th September did some damage in Gozo to the façade of a church and to the barracks at Fort Chambray. The epicentre of this shock was about 50 miles N.W. of Gozo.

VIII.—POSTAL AND TELEPHONE SERVICES.

Details of the postal matter dealt with in the past two years are given in the following table:—

	1910-11.		1911-12.	
	Received.	Despatched.	Received.	Despatched.
Letters	1,740,284	1,932,294	1,878,058	2,227,589
Post Cards	183,313	271,804	180,297	287,508
Printed Matter ...	987,831	379,288	982,345	366,977
Parcels	46,344	16,633	47,462	18,760
Total	2,957,772	2,600,019	3,088,162	2,900,834
	5,557,791		5,988,996	

The total number of mails received during the year was 9,979, and the number despatched 6,522, as against 9,509 and 6,504, respectively, in 1910-11.

The total number of registered articles received and despatched was 149,947, as against 145,016 in the previous year, an increase of 4,931.

The total number of money orders issued and paid in the Colony was 12,361 (£46,715 2*s*. 10*d*.), as against 11,430 (£43,293 9*s*. 1*d*.) in the previous year; and the total number of postal orders issued and paid was 128,696 (£68,883 12*s*. 11½*d*.), as against 123,038 (£65,883 7*s*. 2*d*.) in 1910-11.

The total number of parcels received and despatched was 66,222, as against 62,977 in 1910-11, showing an increase of 3,245 parcels.

The total length of aerial telephone wires belonging to the military authorities open to the public on 31st March, 1912, was 18½ miles, while the total length of wires belonging to the "Melita Telephone Exchange," on the same date, was 768 miles.

IX.—MILITARY EXPENDITURE.

The total expenditure on the Garrison (including the Militia) was £511,649, as compared with £510,033 in the previous year. This expenditure includes the usual Colonial contribution of £5,000 per annum.

X.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

In January, 1912, these Islands were visited by Their Majesties King George V. and Queen Mary on the return journey from the Durbar. Their Majesties, who remained here from the 24th to the 27th, received an enthusiastic reception from all classes of the population. A novel and interesting feature of the Royal Visit was the presence in harbour of a French squadron, sent to Malta expressly to greet Their Majesties.

Another important event of the year was the appointment of a Royal Commission to enquire into the finances, economic position, and judicial procedure of Malta. The Commission, which was composed of the Right Honourable Sir Francis Mowatt, G.C.B., I.S.O., chairman, the Right Honourable Russell Rea, M.P., Sir Mackenzie Dalzell Chalmers, K.C.B., C.S.I., and Mr. D. L. H. Baynes, M.A., secretary, arrived at Malta on the 9th November, 1911, and held 30 sittings in public, during which the evidence of a large number of witnesses was heard. Their report* was issued on the 22nd April, 1912.

The gross revenue of the railway for the year was £6,711, as against £6,507 in 1910-11, and the expenditure, including additions and renewals (£674), was £7,029, showing a net loss of £317 on the year's working. In addition to the above, £157 was expended on the Railway Technical School.

The cost of the Water Works Branch of the Public Works Department (exclusive of new works) was £13,503, and the revenue derived from water supplied, laying house services, and rent of meters was £18,986, as compared with £13,446 and £18,684, respectively, in 1910-11.

854,657,580 gallons of water were consumed in 1911-12, as against 795,754,750 gallons consumed in the previous year.

The revenue derived from the electric lighting installation was £18,657, as compared with £18,365 in 1910-11.

The capital outlay on the 31st March, 1912, was £79,418, and the net profit on the year's working was £6,810 (or 8·57 per cent.).

The total number of units generated (exclusive of Central Station units) was 1,090,393, and the consumption of coal amounted to 2,595 tons, as compared with 1,079,765 units generated and 2,777 tons of coal consumed in 1910-11.

The work done on the survey of the Island in 1911-12 was as follows:—

Survey with plane table	2,123·7 acres.
Traversing	157 miles.
Sheets checked (2,180·4 acres)	5 No.
,, published	2 No.
,, completed and transmitted to Chatham to be printed (1,033·1 acres)...	2 No.

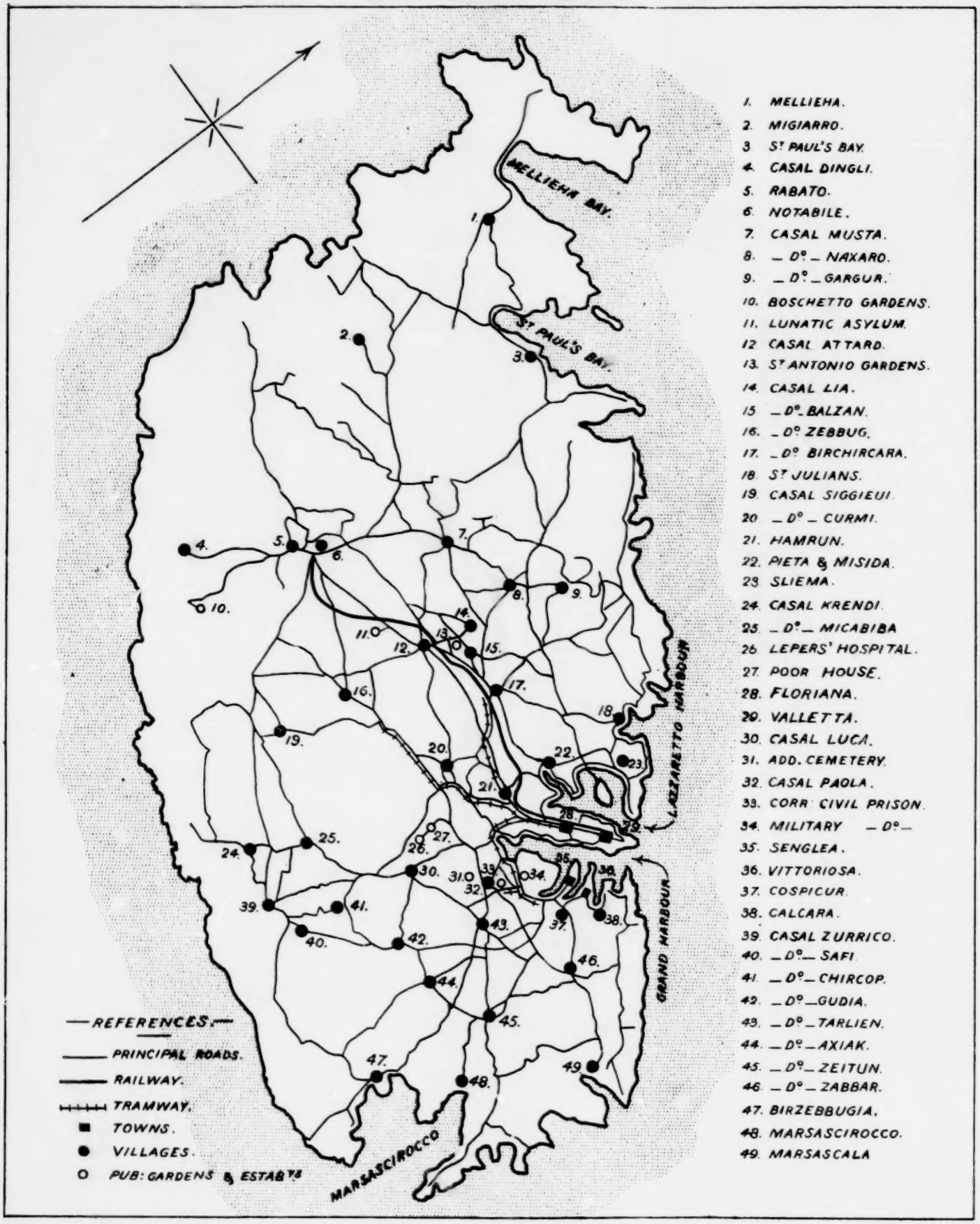
I have, &c.,

E. P. S. ROUPELL,

Acting Lieutenant-Governor and Chief Secretary to Government.

* [Cd. 6090] May, 1912.

MAP OF MALTA

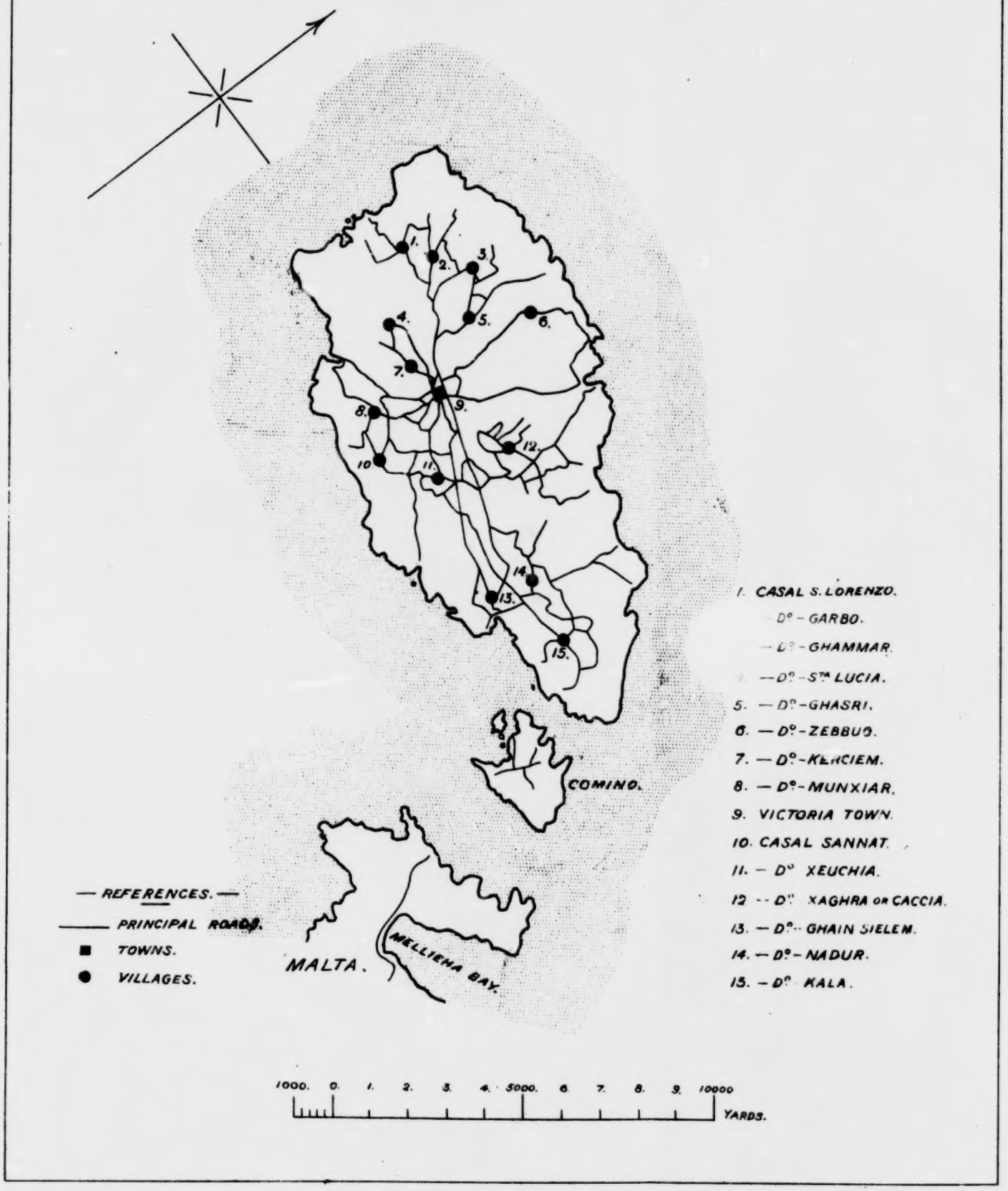


1. MELLIEHA.
2. MIGIARRO.
3. ST PAUL'S BAY.
4. CASAL DINGLI.
5. RABATO.
6. NOTABILE.
7. CASAL MUSTA.
8. _ Dº _ NAXARO.
9. _ Dº _ GARGUR.
10. BOSCHETTO GARDENS.
11. LUNATIC ASYLUM.
12. CASAL ATTARD.
13. ST ANTONIO GARDENS.
14. CASAL LIA.
15. _ Dº _ BALZAN.
16. _ Dº ZEBBUG.
17. _ Dº BIRCHIRCARA.
18. ST JULIANS.
19. CASAL SIGGIEUI.
20. _ Dº _ CURMI.
21. HAMRUN.
22. PIETA & MISIDA.
23. SLIEMA.
24. CASAL KRENDI.
25. _ Dº _ MICABIBA
26. LEPERS' HOSPITAL.
27. POOR HOUSE.
28. FLORIANA.
29. VALLETTA.
30. CASAL LUCA.
31. ADD. CEMETERY.
32. CASAL PAOLA.
33. CORR: CIVIL PRISON.
34. MILITARY _ Dº _
35. SENGLEA.
36. VITTORIOSA.
37. COSPICUR.
38. CALCARA.
39. CASAL ZURRICO.
40. _ Dº _ SAFI.
41. _ Dº _ CHIRCOP.
42. _ Dº _ GUDIA.
43. _ Dº _ TARLIEN.
44. _ Dº _ AXIAK.
45. _ Dº _ ZEITUN.
46. _ Dº _ ZABBAR.
47. BIRZEBBUGIA.
48. MARSASCIROCCO.
49. MARSASCALA

1000. 0. 1. 2. 3. 4 5000. 6. 7. 8. 9. 10000.
YARDS.

Ordnance Survey, Southampton, 1912.

MAP OF GOZO



Ordnance Survey, Southampton, 1912.

COLONIAL REPORTS, &c.

The following recent reports, &c., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, &c.	Year.
703	Jamaica	1910–1911
704	Northern Nigeria	"
705	East Africa Protectorate	"
706	British Honduras	1910
707	Tongan Islands Protectorate	"
708	Uganda	1910–1911
709	Straits Settlements	1910
710	Basutoland	1910–1911
711	Leeward Islands	"
712	St. Vincent	"
713	St. Lucia	1910
714	St. Helena	1911
715	Weihaiwei	"
716	Ceylon	1910–1911
717	Gibraltar	1911
718	Gambia	"
719	Ashanti	"
720	Falkland Islands	"
721	Seychelles	"
722	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast...	"
723	Hong Kong...	"
724	Sierra Leone	"
725	Gold Coast	"
726	Turks and Caicos Islands...	"
727	Fiji	"
728	Bechuanaland Protectorate	1911–1912
729	Basutoland	"
730	Colonial Survey Committee	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, &c.	Subject.
71	Imperial Institute	Foodstuffs.
72	Fiji	Hurricane, 1910.
73	Jamaica	Cayman Islands.
74	Ceylon	Mineral Survey, 1906–7 and 1907–8.
75	West Indies...	Imperial Department of Agriculture.
76	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1907–8.
77	St. Vincent	Roads and Land Settlement Fund.
78	Weihaiwei	Census, 1911.
79	Northern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1907–8 and 1908–9.
80	Nyasaland	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
81	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
82	Imperial Institute	Rubber and Gutta-percha.

LONDON:
PRINTED FOR HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE,
By DARLING & SON, Ltd., 34-40, Bacon Street, E.

1912.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 786.

MALTA.

REPORT FOR 1912-13.

(For Report for 1911-12, see No. 731.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
January, 1914.

LONDON:
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By DARLING AND SON, LTD., BACON STREET, E.

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1914.

[Cd. 7050—27.], *Price* 5½*d.*

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Malta.

Gozo.

No. 786.

MALTA.

(For Report for 1911-12, *see* No. 731.)

THE GOVERNOR TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

The Palace,
Valletta,
28th November, 1913.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward, for your information, the accompanying report by the Lieutenant-Governor and Chief Secretary to Government on the Malta Blue Book for the year 1912-13.

I have, &c.,

LESLIE RUNDLE,
Governor.

The Right Honourable
L. Harcourt, M.P.,
&c., &c., &c.

(32986—2) Wt. 35104—688. 1125 & 90. 1/14. D & S A 2

Lieutenant-Governor's Office,
Malta,
27th November, 1913.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to submit the following report on the annual Blue Book for the year 1912-13.

I.—FINANCIAL.

The revenue for the year 1912-13 was £442,035 and the expenditure £427,581; there was therefore an excess of revenue over expenditure of £14,454. The total amount of duty paid on articles imported for His Majesty's Naval and Military Services, and subsequently refunded to the Imperial Government in the form of drawback, was £17,571. The actual revenue for the year was consequently £424,464 and the actual expenditure £410,010.

The gross surplus standing to the credit of the Government on 31st March, 1913 (including securities calculated at cost price) was £84,012 as against £69,558 on the corresponding date of the previous year, but on closing the accounts of the year 1912-13 an adjustment was made by establishing a new depreciation fund with the object of covering the full depreciation of securities, and the net surplus on the 1st April, 1913, calculated on this basis, was £9,225.

The following table shows the revenue and the expenditure of the Colony for the past five years:—

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1908-9	457,520	445,014
1909-10	436,200	458,013
1910-11	441,444	467,373
1911-12	448,114	467,783
1912-13	442,035	427,581

REVENUE.

The revenue collected in 1912-13 fell short of that received in 1911-12 by £6,079. The only heads of revenue under which increases occurred were Water Service (£371), due to heavier consumption by naval departments and private consumers; Post Office (£291); and Rents (£199), attributable mainly to collection of arrears.

Decreases of revenue occurred under the following heads of revenue:—

Customs (£2,767).—A considerable increase in grain imports for local milling into flour for exportation was more than counterbalanced by reduced imports of spirits and tobacco, and a falling off in cattle importation.

Harbour and Quarantine Dues (£453).—A large decrease in quarantine dues owing to the removal of quarantine restrictions

was partly met by an increase of £1,304 in tonnage dues derived from the attractions offered to steamers by cheap coaling in Malta.

Licences, Court Fines, &c. (£660).—Due to unusually high receipts in 1911-12 in the Superior Courts, and a falling-off in fines paid into the Courts of Judicial Police.

Fees of Court (£569).—Less important cases in the Superior Courts.

Fees of Office and Reimbursements (£533).—Abattoir fees diminished owing to decreased number of cattle imported.

Interest (£702).—Due to sale of securities, and to accumulated refunds of income tax on dividends in previous year.

Railway (£390); Electric Lighting (£338), due to use of metallic filament lamps; Miscellaneous Receipts (£471); and Stamp Duties (£58).

Expenditure

The expenditure amounted to £427,581, made up as follows:—

	£	£
Establishments:—		
Personal Emoluments ...	167,433	
Other Charges	116,231	
		283,664
Interest and Burthens		26,468
Pensions		24,823
Military Expenditure		2,500
Miscellaneous Services		33,383
Public Works		56,743
		£427,581

The total expenditure was £40,202 less than that of the previous year.

The only heads under which an increase occurred were:—

Interest and Burthens (£3,872).—Due mainly to sales of depreciated securities.

Prisons (£796).—Increased prison population.

Pensions (£607).

Audit Department (£58).

The chief reductions in expenditure, as compared with the previous year, were under Public Works Extraordinary (£18,676); Public Works Annually Recurrent (£5,803); Miscellaneous Services (£5,994), due to reduced refunds of import duty paid to the Navy; Water Works and Electric Light Department (£3,897); Military Expenditure (£2,500), due to discontinuance from October, 1912, of the contribution in aid of the military service; Public Health Departments (£2,206), owing to cholera expenditure in previous year; Charitable Institutions (£1,338), largely due to economies in purchases; Police (£1,081); with general retrenchments under other heads of expenditure.

The assets and liabilities of the Colony on 31st March, 1913, as compared with the assets and liabilities on the corresponding date in 1912, were:—

Year.	Assets.	Liabilities.	Surplus.
	£	£	£
1912	725,401	655,843	69,558
1913	733,189	723,964	9,225
Increase	7,788	68,121	—
Decrease	—	—	60,333

The increase in the assets is due to increased cash balance owing to the excess of revenue over expenditure, while the increase in the liabilities and the decrease in the surplus are due to the establishment of a new depreciation fund for the purpose of covering the full depreciation of securities instead of calculating their value at cost price.

There is, strictly speaking, no public debt in Malta, but the Government pays 2½ per cent. on private capital invested in the fund known as the "Massa Frumentaria."

The amount of British coin in circulation in the Colony on 31st March, 1913, is roughly estimated at £480,000.

The principal banks are the Anglo-Egyptian Bank, Ltd., the Anglo-Maltese Bank, the Banco di Malta, and the Banco di Roma.

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

The total value of the imports of merchandise, including the value of non-dutiable goods entered by parcel post and excluding bullion and goods imported for transhipment, was £2,614,566, as compared with £2,413,687 in 1911-12, showing an increase of £200,897.

Imports.

The values of imports for the last three years under the main headings were as follows:—

—	1910-11.	1911-12.	1912-13.
	£	£	£
Food, drink, and tobacco	1,154,713	1,291,258	1,300,701
Raw materials and articles mainly unmanufactured.	458,372	477,823	636,730
Manufactured articles	505,267	499,585	482,827
Miscellaneous and unclassified ...	125,601	145,021	194,308
Total	2,243,953	2,413,687	2,614,566

The value of imports during the year was £190,497 in excess of the average value for the last three years.

The increases in the value of the imports which call for special notice are:—

Bullocks (£11,175).—Higher prices prevailing during the year.

Coal (£159,696).—Increase in the number of steamers which, owing to a variety of causes, filled their bunkers at Malta in preference to other ports in the Mediterranean.

Flour (£37,019).—Imported flour displaced locally milled flour, which was exported.

Wheat (£14,360).—Considerable quantities were stocked .

There were decreases under:—Barley, £4,215; caravances, £8,999; cotton seed, £7,435; cotton goods, £5,261; fish (fresh or preserved), £11,415; meat (fresh, frozen or preserved), £7,504; metals and hardware, £12,560; olive oil, £3,200; petroleum, £5,833; soap, £4,356; spirits, £5,333; sugar, £4,096; tea, £4,184.

The decreases in barley, caravances and cotton seed are due to a diminution of live stock in the Island. Consignments of frozen meat and petroleum, being large, cause fluctuations in the annual returns. The decrease in olive oil is attributable to its partial displacement by cotton oil, which is cheaper. Rum was imported in smaller quantities than in the previous year; while a certain quantity of liquor was manufactured locally. The decrease in the values of sugar and tea is due to lower market prices abroad, as the quantities imported exceeded those of the previous year. The remaining decreases are due to over-stocking in the previous year and to the high prices prevailing.

The following table shows the net amount of duty collected, as compared with the amount received in 1911-12:—

Articles.	Amount received, 1911-12.	Amount received, 1912-13.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Beer	19,214	18,520	—	694
Bullocks and other animals of the kind.	7,575	5,917	—	1,658
Grains:—				
Barley...	405	182	—	223
Indian corn	90	252	162	—
Inferior grain...	26	20	—	6
Saggina	1,802	1,672	—	130
Wheat...	€4,544	65,953	1,409	—
Damaged	21	56	35	—
Grain, Manufactured:—				
Biscuits	534	584	50	—
Flour and semola	30,816	39,437	8,621	—
Malt and malt extract ...	324	68	—	256
Other kinds	332	257	—	75
Damaged	18	22	4	—
Horses	272	60	—	212
Meat:—				
Beef and mutton	—	—	—	—

Articles.	Amount received, 1911–12.	Amount received, 1912–13.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Methylated spirits	64	82	18	—
Mules	1	6	5	—
Oil :—				
Cotton seed	2,353	2,572	219	—
Olive oil and other edible oils	363	313	—	50
Petroleum	8,351	7,013	—	1,338
Potatoes	2,756	2,600	—	156
Beans	2,925	2,683	—	242
Caravances	1,768	1,682	—	86
Other pulse	142	135	—	7
Seeds :—				
Carob beans	778	819	41	—
Cotton seed	797	586	—	211
Sheep	17	2	—	15
Spirits	25,888	24,385	—	1,503
Sugar	5,938	6,378	440	—
Tobacco :—				
Cigars	389	367	—	22
Cigarettes	3,347	3,790	443	—
Cavendish and negrohead ...	358	397	39	—
Other manufactured	498	469	—	29
Snuff	1	2	1	—
Unmanufactured	11,696	8,080	—	3,616
Varnish	29	40	11	—
Vinegar	43	25	—	18
Wine (Import duties)	29,130	30,245	1,115	—
„ (Excise duties)	24	—	—	24
Total	223,577	225,322	12,613	10,571

The fluctuation of import trade during the last three years is shown in the following table :—

——	1910–11.		1911–12.		1912–13.	
	£	Per Cent.	£	Per Cent.	£	Per Cent.
United Kingdom ...	948,045	42·2	1,011,140	41·9	1,129,799	43·2
British Colonies ...	49,124	2·2	61,971	2·6	103,848	4·0
Foreign Countries ...	1,246,784	55·6	1,340,576	55·5	1,380,919	52·8
Total	2,243,953		2,413,687		2,614,566	

Exports.

The value of exports amounted to £977,656, as against £750,422 in the previous year.

The following table shows the countries to which goods were exported during the past three years :—

—	1910-11.		1911-12.		1912-13.	
	£	Per Cent.	£	Per Cent.	£	Per Cent.
United Kingdom—						
Local produce ...	15,210	7·3	21,568	8·0	30,149	9·7
Foreign produce ...	29,252	6·2	8,216	1·7	15,746	2·4
British Possessions—						
Local produce ...	7,717	3·7	6,003	2·2	13,105	4·2
Foreign produce ...	3,476	0·7	1,404	0·3	1,535	0·2
Foreign Countries—						
Local produce ...	185,682	89·0	242,989	89·8	267,118	86·1
Foreign produce ...	443,979	93·1	470,242	98·0	650,003	97·4
Total—						
Local produce ...	208,609		270,560		310,372	
Foreign produce ...	476,707		479,862		667,284	
Total—						
Export trade ...	685,316		750,422		977,656	

The principal increases in local exports were the following:—Raw cotton, £8,514; flour and semola, £13,521; fruit and vegetables, £2,962; goats, £1,395; onions, £7,031. There were decreases under cotton goods, £2,122; cummin seed, £5,990; raw or dried hides, £4,421; potatoes, £19,939.

The exports under the main headings during the past three years were as follows:—

—	1910-11.	1911-12.	1912-13.
	£	£	£
Food, drink and tobacco	144,854	227,801	221,646
Raw materials and articles mainly unmanufactured.	456,973	429,833	630,538
Manufactured articles	73,427	81,553	67,532
Miscellaneous and unclassified ...	10,062	11,235	57,940
	685,316	750,422	977,656

SHIPPING.

The number and tonnage of steamers and sailing vessels which entered and cleared during the past two years are as follows:—

—	1911-12.		1912-13.		Increase.	
	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.
Steamers—						
Entered ...	2,424	4,091,238	2,924	5,178,868	500	1,087,630
Cleared... ...	2,422	4,094,902	2,912	5,161,508	490	1,066,606
Sailing Vessels—						
Entered ...	507	27,983	561	29,610	54	1,627
Cleared... ...	489	26,697	557	28,962	68	2,265
Total—						
Entered ...	2,931	4,119,221	3,485	5,208,478	554	1,089,257
Cleared... ...	2,911	4,121,599	3,469	5,190,470	558	1,068,871

The nationality of steamers which called at Malta during the years 1911-12 and 1912-13 was as follows:—

Nationality.	Number of Steamers.		Tonnage.	
	1911-12.	1912-13.	1911-12.	1912-13.
British	997	1,183	2,219,643	2,758,869
Austrian	564*	630*	489,617	573,860
Belgian	17	44	25,322	69,903
Danish	6	28	6,007	29,505
Dutch	62	86	72,210	116,622
French	59	51	110,415	83,919
German	374	471	785,542	1,058,036
Hellenic	35	52	50,012	82,954
Italian	265	277	266,367	242,728
Norwegian	21	54	32,195	81,999
Swedish	17	32	30,051	56,240
Other Countries	7	16	3,857	24,233
Total Foreign	1,427	1,741	1,871,595	2,419,999
Total British and Foreign ...	2,424	2,924	4,091,238	5,178,868

* Including the subsidized daily mail steamer.

British steamers show an increase of 186 in number (18·7 per cent.) and 539,226 in tonnage (24·3 per cent.).

Foreign steamers increased by 314 (22·0 per cent.) and their tonnage by 548,404 (29·3 per cent.).

The following comparative table shows the percentage of tonnage of British and Foreign steamers which entered and cleared at this port during the last two years:—

—	Entered.						Cleared.					
	With cargo for Malta.		Without any cargo for Malta.		Total.		With cargo for Malta.		Without any cargo for Malta.		Total.	
	1911-12.	1912-13.	1911-12.	1912-13.	1911-12.	1912-13.	1911-12.	1912-13.	1911-12.	1912-13.	1911-12.	1912-13.
	Per Cent.	Per Cent.	Per Cent.	Per Cent.	Per Cent.	Per Cent.	Per Cent.	Per Cent.	Per Cent.	Per Cent.	Per Cent.	Per Cent.
British	51·8	52·6	56·6	53·8	54·3	53·3	48·5	52·4	58·6	53·8	54·3	53·3
Foreign	48·2	47·4	43·4	46·2	45·7	46·7	51·5	47·6	41·4	46·2	45·7	46·7

The totals of the shipping entered and cleared during the last five years are as follows:—

Year.	Entered.		Cleared.	
	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.
1908-09	3,212	4,036,752	3,205	4,027,000
1909-10	2,892	3,755,095	2,979	3,750,241
1910-11	3,059	4,337,736	3,048	4,329,301
1911-12	2,931	4,119,221	2,911	4,121,599
1912-13	3,485	5,208,478	3,469	5,190,470

AGRICULTURE.

The total area of land under cultivation was 41,681 acres, showing a decrease of 185 acres as compared with the previous year, while the area of uncultivated land was estimated at 4,763 acres as against 4,707 in 1911-12.

At the end of the year the number of holdings was estimated at 11,105 (the average acreage being 3·7 acres per holding), as against 11,091 in 1911-12. As in the previous two years, the principal agricultural products were cereals, including wheat, barley, and "mischiato" (a mixture of both), forage and potatoes. The total area under cereals was 13,661 acres, as compared with 13,444 acres in the previous year, and the total yield in the past two years was as follows:—

Year.	Wheat.	Barley.	Mischiato.	Total.
	Qrs.	Qrs.	Qrs.	Qrs.
1911-12	12,449	6,808	3,200	22,457
1912-13	30,333	16,360	7,100	53,793
Total	42,782	23,168	10,300	76,250

The area under beans and other pulse was 1,987 acres, against 2,004 acres in 1911-12, and the total yield was 3,875 quarters as compared with 3,902 quarters in the previous year. The area planted with tubers was 4,048 acres, as against 4,147 acres in 1911-12, and the total yield was 411,758 cwts., as compared with 448,454 cwts. in 1911-12, a decrease of 36,696 cwts. The importation of potatoes as compared with that of the previous year shows a decrease of 8,538 cwts. The quantity imported in the year under review was 104,696 cwts., of which 75,668 cwts. were used as seed and the rest consumed locally.

The area planted with onions was 1,032 acres, against 874 acres in 1911-12. The yield amounted to 6,340 tons, as compared with 4,750 tons in the previous year.

Cummin seed was planted on 1,391 [illegible]res against 1,594 acres. The total yield amounted to 12,250 cwts. [illegible] increase of 820 cwts. on the yield of 1911-12.

The total quantity of oranges, lemons, and mandarines gathered is estimated at 164,000 dozen, as against 176,000 dozen in the previous year, a decrease of 12,000 dozen.

The local production of cotton continues to show a slight improvement. Cotton was grown on 1,144 acres, as against 1,100 in the previous year, and the total yield was 244,920 lbs., (or an average of 214 lbs. per acre), against 187,340 lbs. (an average of 170 lbs. per acre) in 1911-12. The average price per lb. obtained was 6*d*. The quantity exported, including balance of stock of previous years, was 465,983 lbs. Over 87 per cent. of the quantity exported went to Italy, and 9 per cent. to Germany. There was no exportation of cotton to the United Kingdom.

11,705 acres were under clover, barley (cut in the green stage), vetches, &c., as against 11,426 acres in the previous year. The total yield amounted to 426,500 loads of ten bundles each, as compared with 335,600 loads in 1911-12.

The year was good for cereals, forage, and onions, but bad for potatoes. The spring potato crop suffered severely from blight.

During the spring there was a revival of the outbreak of the "fluted scale insect" (*Icerya purchasi*) in certain localities, but, owing to the drastic measures taken and the timely distribution of the "Novius Cardinalis," the spread of the disease was checked.

Fisheries.

Five hundred and ninety-four boats are engaged in the fishing industry, and the number of hands employed is estimated at 1,522.

III.—LEGISLATION.

Four Ordinances were passed during the year, but none of them call for special remark.

IV.—EDUCATION.

Elementary Education.

During the scholastic year, 1st September, 1911, to 31st August, 1912, there were 38 Government boys' schools (29 in Malta and 9 in Gozo), 39 girls' schools (30 in Malta and 9 in Gozo), and 10 infant schools (9 in Malta and 1 in Gozo), with a staff of 766 teachers, the same numbers as in the previous year. The girls' schools generally included infant divisions.

The average number of scholars on the registers was 18,638 (9,634 boys and 9,004 girls); the percentage of the average number in attendance, 15,796 (8,278 boys and 7,518 girls), to the average number on the registers, was 84·5. The figures for the preceding year were 18,482, 15,657, and 84·7 respectively.

The enrolment in September, 1912, was 19,524 (10,112 boys and 9,412 girls) as compared with 19,282 in September, 1911; 7,071 were admitted during the year, as compared with 6,258 in the previous year. Attendance is not compulsory and the number of pupils leaving school at an early age continued to be high, chiefly owing to the straitened economic condition of the Island; thus, of 6,418 pupils who left school, 4,257 were withdrawn under the age of eleven, and 3,320 were withdrawn before reaching Standard III. The figures for the previous year are 5,793, 3,831 and 2,833 respectively. School accommodation is not yet sufficient to meet all demands for admission. Of the total number of pupils, 16,686 on the registers, examined in the infant sections and the seven standard classes, 14,282 or 90·6 per cent. passed, as compared with 16,292, 15,543, and 90·4 per cent respectively in the previous year.

Parents and guardians were, as usual, called upon to select either English or Italian as the language of colloquial instruction on admission to school, and as the secondary language of instruction in Standard III. Of the total number of the former, 5,357, 98·2 per cent. selected English, and of the total number of the latter, 2,950, 99·3 per cent. also selected English. The figures and percentages for the previous year were 5,440, 97·5 per cent., 3,022 and 99·0 per cent.

In Standards V. to VII. parents or guardians were also required to choose the language of examination; 76·5 per cent. selected English only, 22·5 selected English and Italian, and 1·0 per cent. selected Italian only, the corresponding percentages in the previous year being 74·3, 25·3, and 0·4 respectively.

The night schools, 37 in number (28 in Malta and 9 in Gozo), had 1,904 pupils on the registers, and 1,009 in average attendance; five drawing classes attached to the night schools were attended by 64 pupils.

Of the total number of masters (40) and mistresses (51), 23 masters and 24 mistresses have received a course of training at training colleges in England, and three student teachers, 2 males and 1 female, were sent to England for a two years' training course in August, 1912. The local training classes for assistant teachers were attended by 174 males and 208 females.

The total expenditure for the year on elementary education was £27,746 as compared with £28,265 in 1911-12; and included £24,446 paid as salaries to teachers, &c., as compared with £24,655 in the previous year; the average cost per pupil in average attendance was 33*s.* 6*d.*, as compared with 33*s.* 9*d.* in 1911-12.

Secondary Education.

There are three secondary schools; two for boys and one for girls.

The Lyceum in Malta was attended by 544 boys as compared with 590 in the previous year. The percentage of attendance was 79, as against 82 in the previous year. 172 boys were examined for admission and 84 qualified, as compared with 152 and 81 respectively in the previous year.

At the annual examinations held in July, 1912, 302 students were examined in English and 303 in Italian, the number of passes in English being 139, or 46 per cent., and 158, or 52 per cent., in Italian.

The Boys' Secondary School in Gozo was attended by 59 pupils, who made an average attendance of 98·0 per cent. as compared with an attendance of 66 and percentage of attendance of 94·0 in the previous year. An examination for admission into this school, which takes place every second year, was held in July, 1912, and 31 candidates were selected from a total of 73 who presented themselves.

The Girls' Secondary School, Malta, was attended by 163 pupils as compared with 175 in the preceding year; the average percentage of attendance was 98 as compared with 84.

The total cost of secondary education was £4,341 and included Lyceum (£3,439), Boys' Secondary School, Gozo (£258), and Girls' Secondary School, Malta (£644); the revenue was £1,396, inclusive of £981 from the Lyceum, and £415 from the Girls' Secondary School. The average cost per student was £6 9*s*. 8*d*. in the Lyceum, £6 1*s*. 4*d*. in the Secondary School, Gozo, and £2 7*s*. 3*d*. in the Girls' Secondary School, Malta.

University.

The average number of students attending the University was 146, as compared with 149 in the previous year, and included students in Theology (6), Law (51), Medicine (18), Literature and Science (45), Engineering and Architecture (12), and Pharmacy (14).

One hundred and nineteen candidates entered for the Matriculation Examination held in 1912, of whom 53 were successful.

The total cost of the University was £5,540, and the revenue was £1,721; the average cost per student was £24 6*s*. 0*d*. as compared with £27 17*s*. 4*d*. in the previous year.

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

Hospitals, Asylums, &c.

In the year 1912-13, 3,400 patients, as against 3,909 for the previous year, were admitted into the hospitals of Malta and Gozo. There were 360 deaths as compared with 414 in 1911-12. In addition to these, 128,927 persons were attended by the District Medical Officers at the Government dispensaries or at their own houses, as against 130,669 in the previous year.

There were 754 patients in the Lunatic Asylum on 31st March, 1913. The number of admissions was 143, of discharged as cured 32, as relieved 10, not improved 14, not subjects for the Asylum 36. The number of deaths was 57. The revenue from the Asylum farm was £2,313 15*s*. 0*d*. and the expenditure thereon £1,735 6*s*. 4*d*., leaving a profit of £578 8*s*. 8*d*.

The number of inmates in the Leper Hospital increased from 73 on 31st March, 1912, to 105 at the end of the year under review. The number of deaths was 10.

The recipients of institutional relief at the Poor Houses at Malta and Gozo and the Orphan Asylum are shown as numbering 1,467 as compared with 1,453 in the preceding year.

The number of persons receiving outdoor relief is shown to be 3,976.

The total cost of the charitable institutions in the two islands (exclusive of works) was £68,989 as against £71,018 in 1911-12.

Savings Bank.

The number of depositors in the Savings Bank on 31st March, 1913, was 7,444, and the amount standing to their credit was £537,363, of which £531,882 was invested in British and other securities.

The deposits made during the year amounted to £111,401 and the withdrawals to £126,948, as against £120,887 and £137,872 respectively in the previous year.

The expenses of management and the interest credited to depositors amounted to £10,837, whilst the revenue derived from interest on invested funds, unappropriated interest, and sale of pass books was £17,431, leaving a net profit of £6,954.

VI.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

Police.

The establishment of the Police on 31st March, 1913, was 36 officers and 509 non-commissioned officers and men, and the actual strength was 30 officers and 494 non-commissioned officers and men. Twenty-four men were enlisted in 1912-13, and the total number of dismissals was 2. Out of a total of 494 non-commissioned officers and men 386 can read and write and 138 are illiterate.

The number of surety bonds signed under the Aliens Law was 96, as compared with 194 in the previous year. The number of female immigrants, the majority of whom were Sicilians, was 54, of whom 18 were registered as housewives. Nine undesirable aliens were expelled during the year, as against fourteen in the preceding year.

The total cost of the Police for the year 1912-13 was £32,719, viz., £28,081 for personal emoluments and £4,638 for other charges.

Prisons.

The total number of persons committed, exclusive of debtors, was 13,440, of whom 12,444 were males and 996 females. A comparative statement of committals for the past two years is subjoined:—

——	1911-12.	1912-13.	Increase.	Decrease.
Malta—				
Criminal prisoners	10,584	12,187	1,603	—
Debtors	8	4	—	4
Gozo—				
Criminal prisoners	1,055	1,253	198	—
Debtors	—	—	—	—
Total	11,647	13,444	1,801	4

The number of persons sentenced to imprisonment with or without hard labour was 864, as against 754 in the previous year. The number of prisoners under detention, who are not confined in association with prisoners under hard labour or imprisonment, was 11,322 as against 9,830 in 1911-12.

Juvenile offenders, of whom 1,516 were received during the year, as compared with 1,197 in 1911-12, are not allowed to come into contact with adult prisoners.

The general health of the prisoners was satisfactory. Thirty-one prisoners were admitted to the prison infirmary during the year, and the daily average on the sick-list, including prisoners on medical diet not admitted into the infirmary, was 32·75 as against 29·72 in the previous year. The prevailing disease was gastro-enteric derangement.

One death occurred and one execution was carried out in the prison during the year.

The number of offences against discipline by prisoners was 1,989, as compared with 1,441 in 1911-12. The increase of 548 in the offences was due to the daily increase of the prison population, and also to the enforcement of a full task from prisoners undergoing sentences of hard labour.

The prisoners were employed on various kinds of work, *e.g.*, pumping water, stone-breaking, cultivation of prison lands, manufacturing coir mats, cleaning, washing, making and mending clothing and bedding for the prison; and those who knew a trade were employed on tinsmith work, painting, white-washing, masonry and carpentry.

The average cost of the maintenance of a prisoner in the Malta Prison was £15 5s. 1d. per annum.

The total cost of the prisons for 1912-13 (exclusive of the Valletta lock-up) was £5,916, viz., Malta Prison £5,744, Gozo Prison £172.

Criminal and Judicial Statistics.

The number of offences reported to the Police was 37,247, as against 39,742 in 1911-12, a decrease of 2,495.

They may be classified as follows:—

Homicide	4
Offences against the person	6,262
Offences against the good order of families	183
Offences against property	3,571
Other offences	27,227
	37,247

The number of offences dealt with by the Courts of Judicial Police in Malta and Gozo was 28,305, made up as follows:—

——	Malta.	Gozo.	Total.
Crimes	1,120	89	1,209
Contraventions	24,424	2,672	27,096
Total	25,544	2,761	28,305

The number of offences not dealt with by the Courts was 8,942, or 24 per cent. of the total number reported to the Police, while the number of crimes the perpetrators of which were not discovered was 187, or 7 per cent of the total number reported, which was 2,705.

In connection with the offences dealt with by the Courts of Judicial Police, 28,305 persons were summoned before the Magistrates, as compared with 26,252 in the previous year, an increase of 2,053.

They were dealt with as follows:—

Summarily convicted	26,793
Committed for trial	192
Acquitted	1,188
Discharged for want of evidence or in default of prosecution	132
	28,305

The punishments inflicted on the persons who were summarily convicted were as follows:—

Imprisoned	2,033
Fined	19,905
Fined and imprisoned	60
Bound over	355
Admonished	4,440
	26,793

The number of persons admonished (4,440) was 16 per cent. of the number of summary convictions, as against 13 per cent. in the previous year.

One hundred and eighty-eight persons were tried in the Criminal Court (Superior Courts) during the year 1912-13, as compared with 92 in 1911-12.

The results were as follows:—

	1911-12.	1912-13.
Convicted	72	153
Acquitted	20	35
	92	188

The offences in respect of which convictions were secured may be classified as follows:—

Murder	2
Child murder	1
Attempt at murder	1
Other offences against the person ...	28
Offences against property...	66
Offences against the good order of families	15
Other offences	40
Total	153

One thousand six hundred and thirty-two cases were instituted in the Civil Court, First Hall, as against 1,624 in the previous year, of which 858 were for the determination of a point of fact or law (unliquidated claims) and the rest for the recovery of sums of money amounting in the aggregate to £32,254.

In the Commercial Court 923 cases were introduced, as compared with 980 in 1911-12. Two hundred and twenty-eight cases were for the determination of a point of fact or law, and the rest for the recovery of sums of money amounting in the aggregate to £21,724.

The business transacted in the Civil Court, Second Hall, was as follows:—

Applications disposed of	1,264
Secret wills deposited	39
Secret wills withdrawn	10
Deposits made	£200

The number of cases pending in the Superior Courts on 31st March, 1913, was 1,059, as compared with 998 in the previous year.

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

The civil population on 1st April, 1913, was estimated at 216,617, as against 215,332 on 1st April, 1912.

The total number of births in the last two years was as follows:—

	1911-12.	1912-13.
Males	3,840	3,774
Females	3,371	3,203
Total	7,211	6,977

The birth-rate in the year under review was 32·20 per mille, as compared with 33·49 per mille in the previous year. The average birth-rate for the last twelve years was 37·41 per mille.

The total number of deaths reported was as follows:—

	1911-12.	1912-13.
Males	2,798	2,281
Females	2,488	2,039
Total	5,286	4,320

The death-rate in 1912-13 was 19·79 per mille, as against 24·42 in 1911-12, while the average death-rate for the past twelve years was 23·81 per mille.

The number of marriages was 1,029, as compared with 1,016 in the previous year.

The general state of health of the islands during the year was good.

The following table gives the number of cases of infectious diseases, and the number of deaths from each disease, including cases and deaths in the fleet and garrison, during the past two years:—

	1911–12.		1912–13.	
	No. of cases.	No. of deaths.	No. of cases.	No. of deaths.
Asiatic Cholera	116	85	—	—
Chicken-pox	190	—	91	—
Diphtheria	38	9	37	6
Enteric Fever	248	59	110	24
Erysipelas	58	4	55	8
Puerperal Fever...	17	11	11	3
Influenza...	75	3	333	13
Malarial Fever	9	1	11	—
Measles	2,891	144	204	14
Mediterranean Fever	277	26	374	38
Scarlet Fever	42	—	18	—
Small-pox	7	2	6	1
Tubercular Phthisis	238	155	254	171
Whooping-cough	38	1	41	2
Total	4,244	500	1,545	280

Of the 37 cases of diphtheria, six proved fatal.

Mediterranean fever, which showed a continuous decrease for the last six years, has given a slight increase both in the number of cases reported and in the deaths among the civil population during the year under review. Only one case was reported from the fleet, and the garrison had only three cases. During the year 14,537 goats and sheep were examined by the sanitary authorities, of which 420 were found infected and destroyed.

The six cases of small-pox were traced to the first case, which was an imported one. The precautions taken to check the spread

of the disease proved effectual. Five thousand and eight persons were vaccinated, 52 of the vaccinations being unsuccessful.

The death-rate among children under twelve months was 214·46 per 1,000 births, the lowest on record, as against 267·21 in the previous year. There was a considerable decrease in the death-rate of children under five years, as compared with the previous year, viz., 79·70 as against 104·23 per mille in 1911-12.

The works carried out during the year in connection with the general drainage scheme were the following:—

Completing the intercepting sewer and constructing a portion of the street sewers at Ghainsielem, Gozo;

Constructing a portion of the street sewers at Tarxien and Paola;

Constructing a portion of the street sewers at Zeitun; completing the Lazaretto sewer.

The meteorological returns for 1912-13 are summarised in the following table:—

—	Temperature.					Rainfall.		Wind.	
	Solar Maximum.	Shade Maximum.	Shade Minimum.	Mean Daily Range.	Mean Temperature.	No. of inches.	Mean percentage Humidity.	General Directions.	Average Force 0–10.
1912.									
April ...	136·0	71·1	49·0	8·7	58·7	1·335	79·6	W. & N.W.	4
May ...	145·0	82·0	51·8	10·3	65·8	1·655	75·2	N.W. & W.	3
June ...	143·0	81·9	62·4	10·3	70·4	—	77·9	N.W. & W.	4
July ...	154·6	95·0	68·8	12·6	78·1	—	72·1	N.W. & W.	2
August ...	147·4	87·8	69·7	10·3	77·5	—	76·9	N.W. & S.	2
September ...	146·0	79·7	62·1	7·6	71·9	3·112	81·1	N.W. & E.	3
October ...	144·1	78·3	60·0	7·7	68·1	1·168	79·3	E. & W.	3
November ...	136·8	72·5	51·0	7·7	59·6	3·638	74·3	W. & N.W.	4
December ...	128·0	65·7	49·5	7·0	56·0	0·981	81·8	S E. & S W.	4
1913.									
January ...	127·0	63·1	48·2	6·9	56·7	2·548	85·6	W. & N.W.	4
February ...	128·2	63·5	40·4	7·9	54·1	3·203	82·3	N.W. & N.	3
March ...	133·4	69·3	45·8	8·5	56·8	1·376	81·6	S.E & N.	3

The highest temperature in the shade was 101°·1 at Casal Lia on the 4th July, and the lowest 33°·6 at Zeitun on the 15th February. The mean temperature for the year was 64°·6, as compared with 63°·2 in 1911-12.

The mean temperature for the summer months of June, July, August, and September was 74°·2. In 1911-12 it was 75°·9. The mean temperature for the winter months of January, February, and March was 56°·5, or 1°·2 above that of the preceding year.

The total rainfall was 18·016 inches, or 6·214 inches below that of 1911-12. Rain fell on 88 days.

The prevailing winds were:—N.W. on 72 days, W. on 66 days, E. on 47 days, and S.E. on 40 days. The average velocity of the wind was 8·8 miles per hour.

The average number of hours of bright sunshine per day was 8·3, as compared with 8·6 in 1911-12.

No local earthquakes were registered during the period, but the Milne Seismograph recorded 72 shocks from distant centres of disturbance.

VIII.—POSTAL AND TELEPHONE SERVICES.

Details of the postal matter dealt with in the past two years are given in the following table:—

	1911-12.		1912-13.	
	Received.	Despatched.	Received.	Despatched
Letters	1,878,058	2,227,589	1,776,346	2,173,067
Post Cards	180,297	287,508	185,367	306,241
Printed Matter ...	982,345	366,977	1,124,734	380,913
Parcels	47,462	18,760	49,358	19,424
	3,088,162	2,900,834	3,135,805	2,879,645
	5,988,996		6,015,450	

The total number of mails received during the year was 10,047 and the number despatched 6,595, as against 9,971 and 6,52[illegible] respectively, in 1911-12.

The total number of registered articles received and despatched was 157,401, as against 149,867 in the previous year, an increase of 7,534.

The total number of money orders issued and paid in the Colony was 13,678 (£56,989), as against 12,361 (£46,715) in the previous year; and the total number of postal orders issued and paid was 127,420 (£68,871), as against 128,696 (£68,883) in 1911-12.

The total number of parcels received and despatched was 68,782, as against 66,222 in 1911-12, showing an increase of 2,560 parcels.

The total length of aerial telephone wires belonging to the military authorities open to the public on 31st March, 1913, was 18½ miles, while the total length of wires belonging to the Melita Telephone Exchange on the same date was 780 miles.

IX.—MILITARY EXPENDITURE.

The total expenditure on the Garrison (including the King's Own Malta Regiment of Militia) was £517,005, as compared with £511,649 in 1911-12.

X.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

The gross revenue of the railway during 1912-13 was £6,322, against £6,711 in 1911-12, and the expenditure, including additions and renewals (£510), was £6,768, a net loss of £446 on the year's working. In addition to the above, £139 was expended on the Railway Technical School.

The revenue derived from water supplied, laying house services, and rent of meters was £19,358, as compared with £18,986 in 1911-12. 771,580,943 gallons of water were consumed in 1912-13, as against 854,657,580 gallons consumed in the previous year.

The revenue derived from the electric lighting installation was £18,318, as compared with £18,657 in 1911-12. The capital outlay on the 31st March, 1913, was £79,198, and the net profit on the year's working was £6,427 (or 8·12 per cent.). The total number of units generated (exclusive of central station units) was 1,067,883, and the consumption of coal amounted to 2,375 tons, as compared with 1,090,393 units generated and 2,595 tons of coal consumed in 1911-12.

The work done on the survey of the Island in 1912-13 was as follows:—

Survey with plane table	757·2 acres.
Traversing	63·4 miles.
Sheets checked (4,648·5 acres)	9
Sheets published (2,014·5 acres)	4
Sheets completed and transmitted to Chatham to be printed (516·5 acres)	1

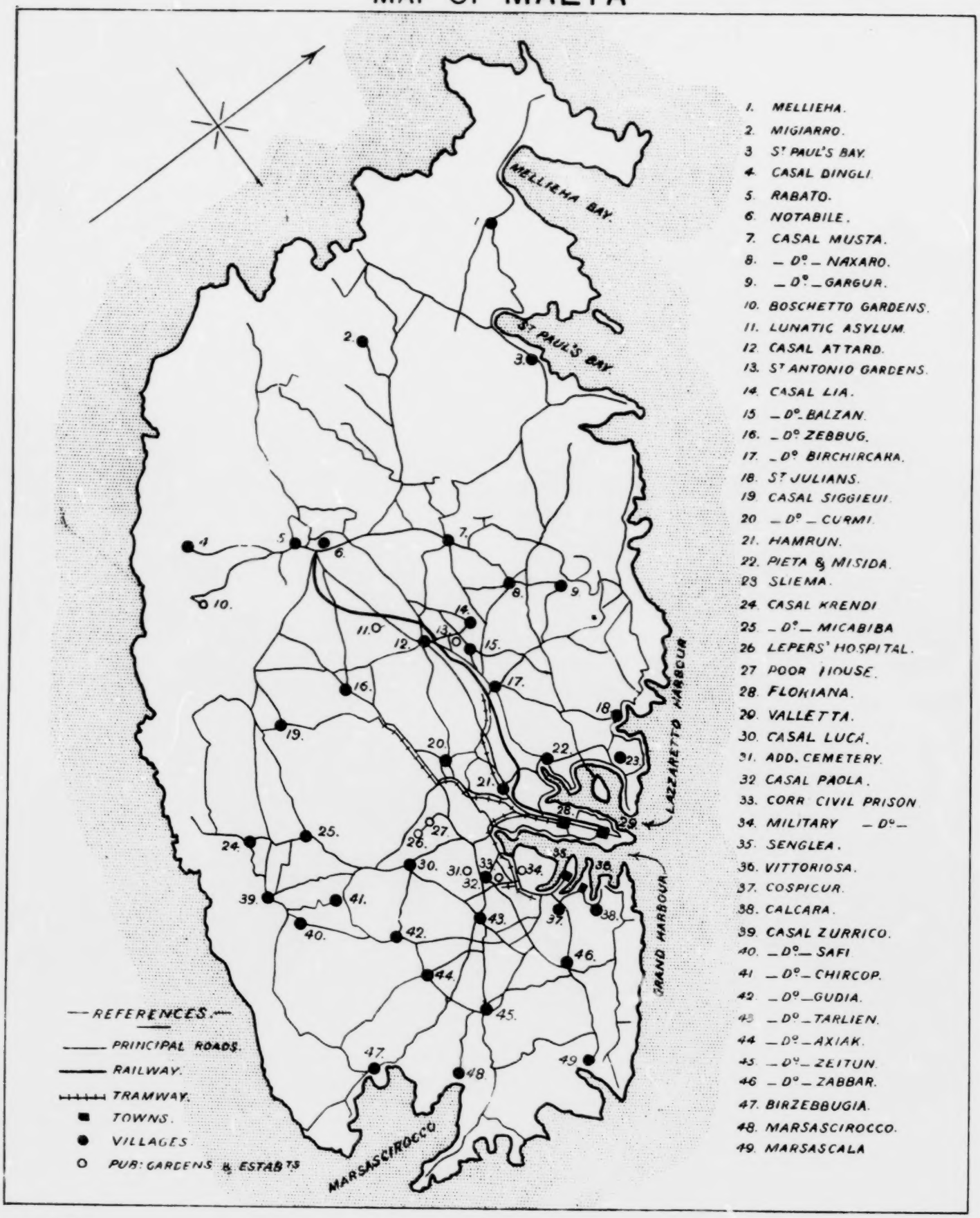
The report of the census of these islands taken on the 2nd April, 1911, was published in April, 1912. The civil population was returned as 211,564, and the garrison, Royal Navy, and mercantile shipping in harbour as 16,970, making a total of 228,534. The civil population was 1,884 per square mile, as against 1,671 in 1901, and 1,487 in 1891. In ten years the civil population had increased by 26,822.

There has been no recovery from the depression in the labour market that was occasioned by the completion of the breakwaters, new dry docks, new barracks, and other Imperial works which, from about 1903 to 1906, had produced an inflation of employment and an abnormal rise in wages, which was followed by a sudden reduction of the Mediterranean fleet and the Malta garrison. Many wage-earners who had become accustomed to a higher standard of living are now unable to find employment, and a considerable number have proceeded abroad in search of work. The passports issued indicate that the flow of emigration is directed mainly towards Australia, Canada, and the northern ports of Africa. The number of passports issued in 1912-13 was 365 for Australia, 514 for Canada, and 876 for Northern Africa, as against 223, 44, and 391, respectively, in 1911-12. The total number of passports issued during the year under review was 2,248.

The report of the Royal Commission appointed to enquire into the finances, economic position, and judicial procedure of Malta was issued on the 22nd April, 1912. In accordance with one of

SKETCH

MAP OF MALTA



1. MELLIEHA.
2. MIGIARRO.
3. ST PAUL'S BAY.
4. CASAL DINGLI.
5. RABATO.
6. NOTABILE.
7. CASAL MUSTA.
8. _ Dº _ NAXARO.
9. _ Dº _ GARGUR.
10. BOSCHETTO GARDENS.
11. LUNATIC ASYLUM.
12. CASAL ATTARD.
13. ST ANTONIO GARDENS.
14. CASAL LIA.
15. _ Dº. BALZAN.
16. _ Dº ZEBBUG.
17. _ Dº BIRCHIRCARA.
18. ST JULIANS.
19. CASAL SIGGIEWI.
20. _ Dº _ CURMI.
21. HAMRUN.
22. PIETA & MISIDA.
23. SLIEMA.
24. CASAL KRENDI
25. _ Dº _ MICABIBA
26. LEPERS' HOSPITAL.
27. POOR HOUSE.
28. FLORIANA.
29. VALLETTA.
30. CASAL LUCA.
31. ADD. CEMETERY.
32. CASAL PAOLA.
33. CORR CIVIL PRISON.
34. MILITARY _ Dº _
35. SENGLEA.
36. VITTORIOSA.
37. COSPICUR.
38. CALCARA.
39. CASAL ZURRICO.
40. _ Dº _ SAFI
41. _ Dº _ CHIRCOP.
42. _ Dº _ GUDIA.
43. _ Dº _ TARLIEN.
44. _ Dº _ AXIAK.
45. _ Dº _ ZEITUN.
46. _ Dº _ ZABBAR.
47. BIRZEBBUGIA.
48. MARSASCIROCCO.
49. MARSASCALA

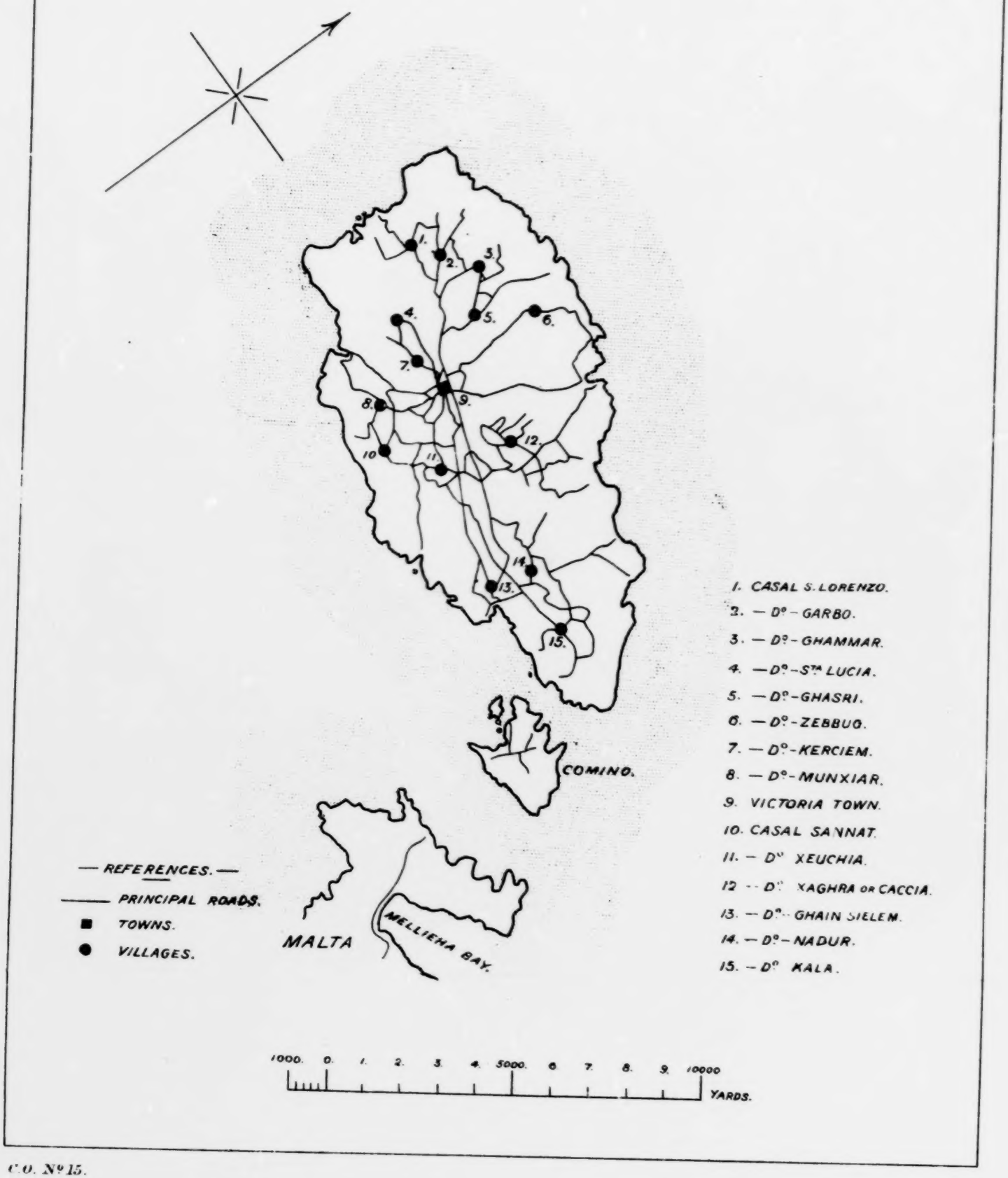
C.O. Nº14.

1000 0. 1. 2. 3. 4 5000. 6. 7. 8. 9. 10000. YARDS.

Ordnance Survey, Southampton. 1913.

SKETCH

MAP OF GOZO



C.O. Nº 15.

Ordnance Survey, Southampton, 1913.

their recommendations, His Majesty's Government approved of the discontinuance of the Island contribution of £5,000 a year in aid of military expenditure until the local finances were in a stronger position, and a saving of £2,500 was consequently effected during the year 1912-13. Meanwhile, the rigid control over expenditure previously initiated continued to operate, and the effect of retrenchments and suspensions of public works resulted in the surplus of £14,454 on the accounts of the year.

On the 4th September, 1912, a Committee was appointed, in pursuance of a recommendation of the Royal Commissioners, to conduct an investigation into the expenditure of the Government and the organisation of the Government Departments. The report of this Committee, signed by Sir John Clauson, K.C.M.G., C.V.O., and Mr. A. E. Stephenson, was submitted to the Governor on the 3rd January, 1913.

I have, &c.,

JOHN E. CLAUSON,

Lieutenant-Governor
and Chief Secretary to Government.

His Excellency
The Governor.

COLONIAL REPORTS, &c.

The following recent reports, &c., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, &c.	Year.
752	St. Lucia	1911–1912
753	Gilbert and Ellice Islands	1911
754	Cayman Islands (Jamaica)	1911–1912
755	Gibraltar	1912
756	St. Helena	1912
757	Weihaiwei	"
758	Ceylon	"
759	Sierra Leone	1911–1912
760	Seychelles	1912
761	Somaliland	"
762	Hong Kong	1912–1913
763	Turks and Caicos Islands	1912
764	Falkland Islands	"
765	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	"
766	Bahamas	"
767	Gambia	"
768	Fiji	"
769	Basutoland	"
770	Gold Coast	1912–1913
771	Ashanti	1912
772	Nyasaland	"
773	Bechuanaland Protectorate	1912–1913
774	British Solomon Islands	"
775	Colonial Survey Committee	"
776	Tongan Islands Protectorate	"
777	Swaziland	1911–1913
778	Imperial Institute	1912–1913
779	Barbados	1912
780	British Guiana	1912–1913
781	Entomological Research Committee	"
782	Southern Nigeria	"
783	Jamaica	1912
784	British Honduras	1912–1913
785	Northern Nigeria	1912
		"

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, &c.	Subject
77	St. Vincent	Roads and Land Settlement Fund.
78	Weihaiwei	Census, 1911.
79	Northern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1907–8 and 1908–9.
80	Nyasaland	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
81	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
82	Imperial Institute	Rubber and Gutta-percha.
83	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1910.
84	West Indies	Preservation of Ancient Monuments, &c.
85	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1911.
86	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1912.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 818.

MALTA.

REPORT FOR 1913-14.

(For Report for 1912–13, see No. 786.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
November 1914.

LONDON:
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By BARCLAY AND FRY, LIMITED, THE GROVE, SOUTHWARK, S.E.

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T. FISHER UNWIN, LONDON, W.C.

1914.

[Cd. 7622–8] *Price* 2½*d.*

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Malta.

Gozo.

No. 818.

MALTA.

(For Report for 1912–13, see No. 786.)

THE GOVERNOR TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

The Palace,
Valletta,
15th October, 1914.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward, for your information, the accompanying report by the Lieutenant-Governor and Chief Secretary to Government on the Malta Blue Book for the year 1913–14.

I have, &c.,

LESLIE RUNDLE,
Governor.

The Right Honourable
L. Harcourt, M.P.,
&c., &c., &c.

Lieutenant-Governor's Office,

Malta,

14th October, 1914.

SIR,

I have the honour to submit the following report on the annual Blue Book for the year 1913–14.

His Excellency
The Governor.

(C92) Wt.36076/850. 1125&90. 11.14. B.&F.Ltd. Gp.12/2/

REPORT ON THE BLUEBOOK FOR THE YEAR 1913–14.

I.—FINANCIAL.

The revenue for the year 1913–14 was £423,108, and the expenditure £402,521 ; there was therefore an excess of revenue over expenditure of £20,587. The total amount of duty paid on articles imported for His Majesty's Naval and Military Services, and subsequently refunded to the Imperial Government in the form of drawback, was £21,226. The actual revenue for the year was consequently £401,882 and the actual expenditure £381,295.

The net surplus on 31st March, 1914, stood at £37,992, as against £9,225 on the corresponding date of the previous year.

The revenue and expenditure for the past five years are shown below :—

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1909–10	436,200	458,013
1910–11	441,444	467,373
1911–12	448,114	467,783
1912–13	442,035	427,581
1913–14	423,108	402,521

Revenue.

The revenue collected in 1913–14 fell short of that received in 1912–13 by £18,927. There were appreciable increases under *Stamp Duties* (£567) ; *Railway* (£242) ; *Electric Lighting* (£615) ; *Interest* (£616) ; and *Miscellaneous Receipts* (£345), while the important decreases were under :—

Customs (£15,930), due to shrinkage in the importation of wheat and tobacco, the market having been overstocked in 1912–13 ; to the discontinuance of arrangements under which import duty on frozen meat for Imperial service was paid by contractors subject to rebate, and to a falling off in the consumption of wines, beer, spirits, petroleum and sugar.

Licences, Court Fines, etc. (£1,194), due partly to the fact that licences for the sale of wines and spirits were made renewable on 1st January, whereby proportionate amounts of fees were collected in 1912–13, and partly to a decrease in the aggregate amount of fines inflicted by the Courts.

Fees of Court (£637), due to a falling off in the number of cases taken into court.

Post Office (£616), due to a decrease in the number of mails received and despatched.

Rents (£2,879), due principally to the facts that Easter rents fell due in April, and that certain urban tenements remained unlet for some time during the year.

Expenditure.

The expenditure amounted to £402,521, and was made up as follows :—

Establishments :—			
Personal Emoluments	£163,604		
Other charges	142,338		
			305,942
Interest and Burthens			21,561
Pensions			25,898
Miscellaneous Services			429
Public Works			48,691
			£402,521

As compared with that of 1912–13, the total expenditure for 1913–14 shows a decrease of £25,060.

The principal increases were under the following heads :—

Pensions (£1,074).

Treasury (£1,985), due to the fact that the rents of property of the Monte di Pieta, collected by the Treasury and refunded to that Institution, have hitherto been charged to " Miscellaneous Services."

Customs and Port Department (£23,819), due to the fact that drawback has hitherto been defrayed from " Miscellaneous Services."

Charitable Institutions (£3,270), due to the transfer to this head of expenditure formerly charged to " Miscellaneous Services."

The chief reductions were under :—

" *Charges on account of Interest and Burthens* " (£4,908), due mainly to a loss incurred in 1912–13 on the sale of securities and payments to Depreciation Fund ; " *Post Office* " (£1,825), due to re-organization and to the decrease in the number of mails received and despatched ; " *Military Expenditure* " (£2,500), due to the fact that the contribution in aid of the military service has been discontinued ; " *Miscellaneous Services* " (£32,954), due to the transfer of expenditure to other

Heads; "*Public Works Department*" (£1,094), due to vacancies and re-organization of establishment; "*Water Works and Electric Lighting Department*" (£1,747), due to reorganization of establishment and decrease in electric lighting renewals and extensions; "*Public Works Annually Recurrent*" (£2,939), and "*Public Works Extraordinary*" (£5,114), due to the limitation of the programme to urgent works.

The following table shows the assets and liabilities of the Government at the close of the past two years :—

Year.	Assets.	Liabilities.	Surplus.
	£	£	£
1912–13	733,189	723,964	9,225
1913–14	749,754	711,762	37,992
Increase	16,565	..	28,767
Decrease	..	12,202	..

The amount of British coin in circulation on 31st March, 1914, is roughly estimated at £425,000.

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

The total value of the imports of merchandise, including the value of goods entered by parcel post and excluding bullion and goods imported for transhipment, was £2,510,934, as compared with £2,614,566 in 1912–13, showing a decrease of £103,632.

Imports.

The values of imports for the last three years under the main headings were as follows :—

	1911–12	1912–13	1913–14
	£	£	£
Food, drink, and tobacco	1,291,258	1,300,701	1,100,775
Raw materials and articles mainly unmanufactured	477,823	636,730	729,330
Manufactured articles	499,585	482,827	463,588
Miscellaneous and unclassified ..	145,021	194,308	217,241
Total	£2,413,687	2,614,566	2,510,934

The value of imports during the year was £2,128 below the average for the past three years.

The increases in the value of imports which call for special notice are :—

Beans (£14,708).—Increased importation due to lower prices prevailing during the year.

Coal (£108,032).—Increase in the number of steamers calling at Malta for bunker coal.

Cotton seed (£5,926).—Larger consumption due to increase in local live stock.

Horses (£3,079).—Increase in importation due to cheap prices.

Saggina (£6,342).—In view of favourable prices considerable quantities were imported.

Wine (£3,062).—A larger quantity was placed on the local market by foreign manufacturers.

There were decreases under :—bullocks, (£21,564) ; cotton goods (£9,131) ; flour and semola (£5,718) ; petroleum (£6,002) ; sugar (£16,516) ; unmanufactured tobacco (£26,103) ; wheat (£135,977).

The following table shows the net amount of duty collected, as compared with the amount received in 1912–13 :—

Articles.	Amount received 1912–13.	Amount received 1913–14.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Beer	18,520	18,669	149	..
Bullocks and other animals of the kind	5,917	4,817	..	1,100
Grains	68,135	57,051	..	11,084
Manufactured grain ..	40,369	38,902	..	1,467
Horses	60	322	262	..
Methylated spirits ..	82	99	17	..
Mules	6	23	17	..
Oil	2,885	2,771	..	114
Petroleum	7,013	5,630	..	1,383
Potatoes	2,600	2,954	354	..
Pulse	4,500	4,881	381	..
Seeds	1,404	1,452	48	..
Sheep	2	13	11	..
Spirits	24,385	23,704	..	681
Sugar	6,378	5,768	..	610
Tobacco	13,105	10,646	..	2,459
Varnish	40	30	..	10
Vinegar	25	32	7	..
Wine	30,245	33,199	2,954	..
Total	£225,322 (a)	208,084 (a)	4,200	17,238

(a) After deducting amounts paid as drawback on frozen meat in excess of duties received during the year.

The following figures show the imports in the past three years :—

	1911–12		1912–13		1913–14	
	£	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	£	Per cent.
United Kingdom ..	1,011,140	41·9	1,129,799	43·2	1,154,154	46·0
British Colonies ..	61,971	2·6	103,848	4·0	61,183	2·4
Foreign Countries ..	1,340,576	55·5	1,380,919	52·8	1,295,597	51·6
Total ..	£2,413,687		2,614,566		2,510,934	

Exports.

The value of exports amounted to £1,053,854, as against £977,656 in 1912–13, showing an increase of £76,198.

Details of goods exported during the past three years are given below :—

	1911–12		1912–13		1913–14	
	£	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	£	Per cent.
United Kingdom :						
Local produce ..	21,568	8·0	30,149	9·7	33,166	12·1
Foreign produce ..	8,216	1·7	15,746	2·4	18,355	2·4
British Possessions :						
Local produce ..	6,003	2·2	13,105	4·2	14,285	5·2
Foreign produce ..	1,404	0·3	1,535	0·2	2,401	0·3
Foreign Countries :						
Local produce ..	242,989	89·8	267,118	86·1	226,594	82·7
Foreign produce ..	470,242	98·0	650,003	97·4	759,053	97·3
Total :						
Local produce ..	270,560		310,372		274,045	
Foreign produce ..	479,862		667,284		779,809	
Total export trade £	750,422		977,656		1,053,854	

The principal increases in local exports were the following :—hides and skins, £3,465 ; cummin seed, £1,357 ; preserved tomatoes, £1,537 ; textiles £2,343. There were decreases under raw cotton, £4,544 ; potatoes, £10,796 ; flour and semola, £8,626 ; goats, £1,119 ; bran, £2,213.

The exports under the main headings during the past three years were as follows :—

	1911–12		1912–13		1913–14	
	£	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	£	Per cent.
Food, drink and tobacco	227,801	30·4	221,646	22·7	192,670	18·3
Raw materials and articles mainly unmanufactured ..	429,833	57·3	630,538	64·5	749,507	71·1
Manufactured articles	81,553	10·8	67,532	6·9	60,274	
Miscellaneous and unclassified ..	11,235	1·5	57,940	5·9	51,403	4·9
Total ..	£750,422		977,656		1,053,854	

Shipping.

The number and tonnage of steamers and sailing vessels which entered and cleared during the past two years are as follows :—

	1912–13		1913–14		Number.		Tonnage.
	Number.	Tonnage.	Number.	Tonnage.	Inc.	Dec.	Increase.
Steamers :							
Entered ..	2,924	5,178,868	2,717	5,512,876	—	207	334,008
Cleared ..	2,912	5,161,508	2,722	5,520,447	—	190	358,939
Sailing vessels :							
Entered ..	561	29,610	649	33,217	88	—	3,607
Cleared ..	557	28,962	638	31,072	81	—	2,110
Total—							
Entered ..	3,485	5,208,478	3,366	5,546,093	—	119	337,615
Cleared ..	3,469	5,190,470	3,360	5,551,519	—	109	361,049

The nationality of steamers which called at Malta during the years 1912–13 and 1913–14 was as follows :—

Nationality.	Number of steamers.		Tonnage.	
	1912–13	1913–14	1912–13	1913–14
British	1,183	1,169	2,758,869	2,846,121
Austrian	630*	505*	573,860	539,792
Belgian	44	44	69,903	70,680
Danish	28	8	29,505	9,695
Dutch	86	119	116,622	201,368
French	51	61	83,919	105,681
German	471	536	1,058,036	1,413,852
Hellenic	52	44	82,954	68,479
Italian	277	184	242,728	186,957
Norwegian	54	21	81,999	36,881
Swedish	32	12	56,240	12,138
Other Countries	16	14	24,233	15,032
Total Foreign	1,741	1,548	2,419,999	2,666,755
Total British and Foreign	2,924	2,717	5,178,868	5,512,876

*Including the subsidized mail steamer.

British steamers show a decrease of 14 in number (1·2 per cent.) and an increase of 87,252 in tonnage (3·2 per cent).

Foreign steamers decreased in number by 193 (11·1 per cent) and increased in tonnage by 246,756 (10·2 per cent).

The following comparative table shows the percentage of tonnage of British and foreign steamers which entered and cleared at this port during the last two years :—

	Entered.						Cleared.					
	With cargo for Malta.		Without cargo for Malta.		Total.		With cargo for Malta.		Without cargo for Malta.		Total.	
	1912–13	1913–14	1912–13	1913–14	1912–13	1913–14	1912–13	1913–14	1912–13	1913–14	1912–13	1913–14
	p.c.	p.c.	p.c	p.c.	p.c.	p.c.	p.c.	p.c.	p.c.	p.c.	p.c.	p.c.
British ..	52·6	55·2	53·8	48·9	53·3	51·6	52·4	53·2	53·8	50·7	53·3	51·5
Foreign ..	47·4	44·8	46·2	51·1	46·7	48·4	47·6	46·8	46·2	49·3	46·7	48·5

The totals of the shipping entered and cleared during the last five years are as follows :—

Year.	Entered.		Cleared.	
	Number.	Tonnage.	Number.	Tonnage.
1909–10	2,992	3,755,095	2,979	3,750,241
1910–11	3,059	4,337,736	3,048	4,329,301
1911–12	2,931	4,119,221	2,911	4,121,599
1912–13	3,485	5,208,478	3,469	5,190,470
1913–14	3,366	5,546,093	3,360	5,551,519

Agriculture.

The total area of land under cultivation was 41,603 acres, a falling off of 78 acres from the previous year, while the area of uncultivated land was estimated at 4,812 acres, as against 4,763 in 1912–13.

At the end of the year the number of holdings was estimated at 11,103 (the average acreage being 3·7 acres per holding), as against 11,105 in 1912–13. The principal agricultural products were cereals, including wheat, barley, and " mischiato " (a mixture of both), forage

and potatoes. The total area under cereals was 13,894 acres, as compared with 13,661 acres in the previous year, and the total yield in the past two years was as follows :—

Year.	Wheat.	Barley.	Mischiato.	Total.
	Qrs.	Qrs.	Qrs.	Qrs.
1912–13 ..	30,333	16,360	7,100	53,793
1913–14 ..	26,338	17,360	6,298	49,996
Total	56,671	33,720	13,398	103,789

The area under beans and other pulse was 2,323 acres, against 1,987 acres in 1912–13 ; and the total yield was 3,920 quarters, as compared with 3,875 quarters in the previous year. The area planted with tubers was 4,488 acres, as against 4,048 acres in 1912–13 ; and the total yield was 387,122 cwts., as compared with 411,758 cwts., in 1912–13, a decrease of 24,636 cwts. The importation of potatoes shows an increase of 13,566 cwts. The quantity imported in the year under review was 118,262 cwts., of which 86,278 cwts. were used as seed, and the rest consumed locally.

The area planted with onions was 1,119 acres, against 1,032 acres in 1912–13. The yield amounted to 6,180 tons, as compared with 6,340 tons.

Cummin seed was planted on 1,546 acres, against 1,391 acres. The total yield amounted to 8,348 cwts., a decrease of 3,902 cwts. on the yield of 1912-13.

The total quantity of oranges, lemons, and mandarines gathered is estimated at 167,000 dozen, as against 164,000.

Cotton was grown on 1,042 acres, as against 1,444 ; and the total yield was 225,860 lbs. (or an average of 211 lbs. per acre), against 244,920 lbs. (an average of 214 per acre) in 1912–13. The average price per lb. obtained was 6*d*. The quantity exported, including balance of stock of previous years, was 270,803 lbs. ; 89 per cent. of the cotton produced was exported to Italy, between 9 and 10 per cent. to Germany, and 1 per cent. to France. There was no exportation of cotton to the United Kingdom.

11,108 acres were under clover, barley (cut in the green stage), vetches, etc., as against 11,705 acres in the previous year. The total yield amounted to 389,460 loads of ten bundles each, as compared with 426,500 loads in 1912–13.

The year was again a bad one for the potato spring crop, which suffered from blight, but was a fairly good one as regards cereals and forage. The production of onions was an average one, but record prices were obtained owing to the failure of the Egyptain crop.

Fisheries.

Five hundred and ninety seven boats are engaged in the fishing industry and the number of hands employed is estimated at one thousand five hundred and thirty-four.

III.—LEGISLATION.

The number of Ordinances passed by the Legislature during the year was eighteen, the more important being :—

No. IV of 1913—"An Ordinance to amend Ordinance No. X of 1886." The object of this Ordinance is to discontinue the free house allowance of three gallons of water per head hitherto enjoyed by consumers.

No. VII of 1913—"An Ordinance to make provision for the abolition of the Malta Country District Courts." On grounds of economy and expediency all the courts have been centralized in Valetta.

No. XII of 1913—"An Ordinance to amend the Criminal Laws." The object of this Ordinance is that of simplifying and expediting the procedure of the police courts. It also contains provisions extending the powers of the courts of justice in repressing offences of minors; increasing the penalties for forgeries; in dealing with offences against the gaming laws, and refusals to assist the police in riots.

No. XV of 1913—"An Ordinance to amend the Laws of Organization and Civil Procedure." Under this Ordinance the Courts of Appeal have been unified, the English procedure relating to the signing of judgments on writs specially endorsed adopted, the system of transcribing notes of evidence discontinued, and the law of evidence modified by making parties to a case in a civil action competent and compellable witnesses.

IV.—EDUCATION.

Elementary Education.

During the scholastic year 1st September, 1912, to 31st August, 1913, the number of Government day schools was the same as in the previous year, and included 38 boys' schools (29 in Malta and 9 in Gozo), 39 girls' schools (30 in in Malta and 9 in Gozo), and 10 infant schools (9 in Malta and 1 in Gozo).

The girls' schools generally included infant divisions.

The average number of scholars on the registers was 18,892 (9,815 boys and 9,077 girls); the average attendance was 16,105 (8,512 boys and 7,593 girls). The percentage of the average attendance to the average number on the registers was 85·2. The figures for the previous year were 18,638, 15,796 and 84·8.

The highest enrolment during the statistical year was 21,845 (11,399 boys and 10,446 girls), while the lowest was 15,880 (8,441 boys and 7,439 girls). The figures for the previous year were 21,243 and 15,662 respectively.

On the 31st July, 1913, the schools were attended by 19,590 scholars (10,176 boys and 9,414 girls), as similarly compared with 19,524 in 1912.

The average number of pupils on the registers in the drawing classes was 354, and the average attendance was 259. In the modelling and wood-carving classes the figures were 47 and 31 respectively.

7,900 new scholars were admitted during the year, and 5,545 were withdrawn, as against 7,071 and 6,418 respectively in the previous year.

The number of night schools was 37 (28 in Malta and 9 in Gozo), with an average enrolment of 1,846 and an average attendance of 949. The corresponding figures for the previous year were 1,905 and 1,008.

The teaching staff of the elementary schools numbered 766, as in the previous year, and included 40 masters, 51 mistresses and 510 assistant teachers (220 men and 290 women), 45 monitors, 110 monitresses, and 10 teachers for instruction in special subjects (drawing, modelling and wood-carving, dress-cutting and lace-making). Twenty-five masters and twenty-seven mistresses of the teaching staff have undergone courses of training in England.

The local training schools were attended by 170 males and 190 females, as compared with 174 and 208, respectively, in 1912–13.

The total expenditure on elementary education during the financial year 1913–14 was £27,520, as compared with £27,746 in the previous year.

Calculated on the average number of scholars on the registers the average cost per head was 26*s.* 6*d.*, and calculated on the average attendance it was 32*s.* 3*d.*

Secondary Education.

The attendance in the Lyceum for the scholastic year 1912–13 was 560. The average percentage of attendance was 90 in the obligatory subjects, 75 in the optional subjects, and 61 in the classes of marine and electrical engineering.

The Boys' Secondary School, Gozo, was attended by 51 pupils, who made an average attendance of 94·0 per cent., as compared with an attendance of 59 and percentage of attendance of 98·0 in the previous year.

The Girls' Secondary School, Malta, was attended by 187 pupils, as against 163 in the preceding year; the average percentage of attendance was 82, as compared with 98.

The total cost of secondary education was £4,365, and included Lyceum (£3,453), Boys' Secondary School, Gozo (£251), and Girls' Secondary School, Malta (£661); the revenue was £1,271, inclusive of £865 from the Lyceum and £405 from the Girls' Secondary School. The average cost per student was £5 0*s.* 6*d.* in the Lyceum, £4 18*s.* 3*d.* in the Secondary School, Gozo, and £1 7*s.* 4*d.* in the Girls' Secondary School, Malta.

University.

The average number of students attending the University was 220, as compared with 165 in the previous year, and included students in theology (15), law (64), medicine (39), literature and science (88), and engineering and architecture (14).

Fifty candidates entered for the Matriculation Examination held in 1913, of whom 33 were successful.

The total cost of the University, including the Botanic Gardens, was £5,875, and the revenue was £1,815; the average cost per student was £16 10*s.* 2*d.*, as compared with £24 6*s.* 0*d.* in the previous year.

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

Hospitals, Asylums, etc.

In 1913–14, 3,544 patients were admitted into the hospitals of Malta and Gozo, as against 3,400 for the previous year. There were 398 deaths, as compared with 360 in 1912–13. In addition to these, 140,795 persons were attended by the District Medical Officers at the Government dispensaries or at their own residences, as against 128,927 in the previous year.

There were 733 patients in the Lunatic Asylum on 31st March, 1914. The number of admissions was 127; 34 were discharged as cured, 11 as relieved, 6 not improved, 37 not subjects for the Asylum. The number of deaths was 60. The revenue from the Asylum farm was £1,116, and the expenditure thereon £629, leaving a profit of £486.

The number of inmates in the Leper Hospital increased from 105 on 31st March, 1913, to 108 at the end of the year. The number of deaths was 13.

The recipients of relief at the Poor Houses at Malta and Gozo and the Orphan Asylum were 1,357, as compared with 1,467 in the preceding year.

The number of persons receiving outdoor relief was 4,032.

The total cost of the charitable institutions in the two islands (exclusive of works) was £72,943.

Savings Bank.

The number of depositors in the Savings Bank on 31st March, 1914, was 7,462, and the amount standing to their credit was £536,233, of which £527,882 was invested in British and other securities.

The deposits made during the year amounted to £104,933, and the withdrawals to £116,066, as against £111,401 and £126,948, respectively, in the previous year.

The expenses of management and the interest credited to depositors amounted to £10,855, whilst the revenue derived from interest on invested funds, unappropriated interest, and sale of pass books was £17,108, leaving a net profit of £6,253.

In the Gozo Savings Bank there were 808 depositors on the 31st March, 1914, the total amount standing to their credit being £62,505. The deposits made during the year amounted to £8,902, and the withdrawals £14,884, as compared with £7,014 and £12,646 in the previous year.

VI.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

Police.

The establishment of the Police on 31st March, 1914, was 35 officers and 494 non-commissioned officers and men, and the actual strength was 29 officers and 488 non-commissioned officers and men.

The total cost of the Police for the year 1913–14 was £32,696, made up of £27,953 for personal emoluments and £4,743 for other charges.

Prisons.

The total number of persons committed, exclusive of debtors, was 8,985, of whom 7,743 were males and 1,242 females. The following is a comparative statement of committals for the past two years :—

	1912–13.	1913–14.
Malta :		
Criminal prisoners ..	12,187	[illegible]
Debtors	4	8
Gozo :		
Criminal prisoners ..	1,253	803
Total	13,444	8,993

The number of persons sentenced to imprisonment with or without hard labour was 589, as against 864 in the previous year. The number of prisoners under detention (not confined in association with prisoners under hard labour or imprisonment) was 7,593, as against 11,322 in 1912–13.

The juvenile offenders were 895, as compared with 1,516 in 1912–13.

The general health of the prisoners was good. Twelve prisoners were admitted to the prison infirmary during the year, and the daily average on the sick-list, including prisoners on medical diet not admitted into the infirmary, was 37·88, as against 32·75 in the previous year.

Two deaths occurred during the year due to heart disease.

The number of offences against discipline by prisoners was 1,505, as compared with 1,989 in 1912–13.

The prisoners were employed on various kinds of work, *e.g.*, pumping water, stone-breaking, cultivation of prison lands, manufacturing coir mats, cleaning, washing, making and mending clothing and bedding for the prison; and those who knew a trade were employed on tin-smith work, painting, white-washing, masonry and carpentry.

The total cost of the prisons in the two islands was £6,012.

Criminal and Judicial Statistics.

The number of offences reported to the police was 35,570, as against 37,247 in 1912–13, a decrease of 1,677.

They may be classified as follows :—

Homicide	6
Other offences against the person	6,311
Offences against the good order of families ..	102
Offences against property	3,474
Other offences	25,677
	35,570

The number of offences dealt with by the Court of Judicial Police in Malta and Gozo was 23,980, as shown below :—

	Malta.	Gozo.	Total.
Crimes	876	107	983
Contraventions ..	21,130	1,867	22,997
Total	22,006	1,974	23,980

The number of offences not dealt with by the courts was 11,590, or 32 per cent. of the total number reported to the police, while the number of crimes the perpetrators of which were not discovered was 264, or 12·2 per cent. of the total number reported, which was 2,165.

In connection with the offences dealt with by the Courts of Judicial Police, 23,980 persons were summoned before the magistrates, as compared with 28,305 in the previous year, a decrease of 4,325.

They were dealt with as follows :—

Summarily convicted	22,832
Committed for trial	149
Acquitted	563
Discharged for want of evidence or in default of prosecution	436
	23,980

The persons summarily convicted were dealt with as follows :—

Imprisoned	1,048
Fined	16,366
Fined and imprisoned	80
Bound over	321
Admonished	5,010
Awarded other punishments	7
	22,832

The number of persons admonished was 5,010, or 21 per cent. of the number of summary convictions, as against 16 per cent. in the previous year.

One hundred and forty-nine persons were tried by jury during the year 1913–14, as against 188 in 1912–13.

The results were as follows :—

	1912–13.	1913–14.
Convicted	153	120
Acquitted	35	29
	188	149

The offences in respect of which conviction was secured may be classified as follows :—

Wilful homicide	3
Manslaughter	2
Attempted homicide	2
Concealment of birth	1
Other offences against the person	23
Robbery with violence	9
Other offences against property	39
Offences against the good order of families	12
False evidence	3
Miscellaneous offences	26
Total	120

One thousand four hundred and sixty-one cases were instituted in the Civil Court, First Hall, as against 1,632 in the previous year, of which 596 were for the determination of a point of fact or law (unliquidated claims), and the rest for the recovery of specific sums of money amounting in the aggregate to £54,371.

In the Commercial Court 759 cases were introduced, as compared with 923 in 1912–13. 171 cases were for the determination of a point of fact or law (unliquidated claims), and the rest for the recovery of stated sums of money amounting in the aggregate to £20,919.

The business transacted in the Civil Court, Second Hall, was as follows :—

Applications disposed of	1,470
Secret wills deposited	31
Secret wills withdrawn	22
Deposits made	£102

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

The civil population on 1st April 1914, was estimated at 216,879, as against 216,617 on 1st April 1913.

The total number of births in the last two years was as follows :—

	1912–13.	1913–14.
Males	3,774	3,787
Females	3,203	3,376
Total	6,977	7,163

The birth-rate in the year under review was 33·02 per mille, as compared with 32·20 per mille in the previous year. The average birth-rate for the past twelve years was 37·18 per mille.

The total number of deaths reported was as follows :—

	1912–13.	1913–14.
Males	2,281	2,724
Females	2,039	2,426
Total	4,320	5,150

The death-rate in 1913–14 was 23·61 per mille, as against 19·79 in 1912–13, while the average death-rate for the past decade (1904–13) was 23·56 per mille.

The number of marriages was 1,235, as compared with 1,029 in the previous year.

The general state of health of the islands during the year was good.

The following table gives the number of cases of infectious diseases, and the number of deaths from each disease, including cases and deaths in the fleet and garrison, during the past two years :—

	1912–13		1913–14	
	Number of cases.	Number of deaths.	Number of cases.	Number of deaths.
Chicken-pox	91	—	94	—
Diphtheria	37	6	40	8
Enteric Fever	110	24	566	107
Erysipelas	55	8	86	12
Puerperal Fever ..	11	3	6	1
Influenza	333	13	40	2
Malarial Fever	11	—	22	—
Measles	204	14	13	—
Undulant Fever	374	38	343	25
Scarlet Fever	18	—	8	—
Small-pox	6	1	—	—
Tubercular Phthisis ..	254	171	231	199
Whooping-cough ..	41	2	1,849	72
Total	1,545	280	3,298	426

Only two cases of undulant fever were reported from the fleet, and two from the garrison. The number of goats and sheep found infected and destroyed during the year was 390 out of a total of 9,506 examined.

All cases of malarial fever shown in the table were contracted abroad.

Four thousand four hundred and fifty-one persons were successfully vaccinated.

The death-rate among children under twelve months was 268·28 per 1,000 births, as against 214·46 in the previous year. The death-rate of children under five years was 105·43 per 1,000 births, as compared with 79·70 in the previous year.

The works carried out during they year in connection with the general drainage scheme were the following :—

Construction of a portion of the street sewer at Ghainsielem, Gozo ;

Completion of street sewers at Tarxien and Paula, Malta ;

Completion of street sewers at Zeitun, Malta.

The meteorological returns for 1913–14 are summarized in the following table :—

	Temperature.					Rainfall.		Wind.	
	Solar Max.	Shade Max.	Shade Min.	Mean Daily Range.	Mean Temp.	Number of inches.	Mean % Humidity.	General Directions.	Average Force 0-10.
1913.									
April .	137·5	75·9	49·9	9·5	60·2	0·725	80·6	N.W. & S.W.	3
May	139·0	82·4	53·0	11·2	65·1	0·806	77·1	N.W. & W.	3
June	137·8	82·2	63·5	10·4	70·9	—	73·1	W. & N.W.	2
July	146·0	88·0	62·3	11·9	74·3	—	69·1	N.W. & S.W.	2
August ...	146·8	93·9	67·9	10·8	78·3	0·020	70·6	N.W. & E.	2
September..	155·0	93·2	67·5	7·2	77·6	—	73·1	S.W. & N.E.	2
October ...	147·0	80·2	59·9	11·1	72·8	12·816	75·5	N.E. & N.	2
November..	141·0	70·7	56·3	7·7	65·1	1·390	71·2	N.W. & N.E.	2
December ..	132·0	65·3	43·5	12·2	55·5	2·710	74·9	N.N.W. & N.W.	3
1914.									
January ...	124·0	66·6	44·0	10·6	52·2	3·830	74·1	N.W. & E.	3
February ..	121·0	65·7	47·0	8·3	54·2	1·710	85·1	S.E & S.	2
March ..	126·5	68·0	46·5	7·7	56·2	1·110	83·4	N.W. & N.N.W.	3

The highest temperature in the shade was 100·1° at Casal Lia on the 21st August, and the lowest 38° at Casal Lia on the 3rd February. The mean temperature for the year was 65·2°, as compared with 64·6° in 1912–13.

The mean temperature for the summer months of June, July, August and September was 75·2°. In 1912–13 it was 74·2°. The mean temperature for the winter months of January, February and March was 54·2°, or 2·3° below that of the preceding year.

The total rainfall was 25·111 inches, or 7·095 inches above that of 1912–13. A cloud burst occurred on the 16th of October and 16·3 inches of rain fell at Vittoriosa. Rain fell on 59 days.

The prevailing winds were :—N.W. on 82 days, E. on 27 days, W. on 23 days, and N.E. on 21 days. The average velocity of the wind was 7·2 miles per hour. The average number of hours of bright sunshine per day was 7·9, as compared with 8·3 in 1912–13.

No local earthquakes were experienced during the year, but 18 shocks from distant centres of disturbance were recorded by the Milne Seismograph.

VIII.—POSTAL AND TELEPHONE SERVICES.

Details of the postal matter dealt with in the past two years are given in the following table :—

	1912–13		1913–14	
	Received.	Despatched.	Received.	Despatched.
Letters	1,776,346	2,173,067	1,999,790	2,602,418
Post Cards ..	185,367	306,241	313,157	234,845
Printed Matter .	1,124,734	380,913	844,155	818,012
Parcels	49,358	19,424	50,412	19,000
	3,135,805	2,879,645	3,207,514	3,674,275
	6,015,450		6,881,789	

The total number of mails received during the year was 7,416, and the number despatched 5,638, as against 10,047 and 6,595, respectively, in 1912–13.

The total number of registered articles received and despatched was 165,573, as against 157,401 in the previous year, an increase of 8,172.

The total number of money orders issued and paid in the Colony was 17,789 (£84,540), as against 13,678 (£56,989) in the previous year, and the total number of postal orders issued and paid was 134,451 (£68,366), as against 127,420 (£68,871) in 1912–13.

The total number of parcels received and despatched was 69,412, as against 68,782 in 1912–13, showing an increase of 630.

The total length of aerial telephone wires belonging to the Melita Telephone Exchange is 785 miles.

IX.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

The gross revenue of the Railway during 1913–14 was £6,564, as against £6,322 in 1912–13, and the expenditure, including additions and renewals (£575), was £7,136, a net loss of £572 on the year's working. In addition to the above, £151 was expended on the Railway Technical School.

The revenue derived from water supplied, laying house services, and rent of meters was £19,378, as compared with £19,358 in 1912–13. 681,000,000 gallons of water were consumed in 1913–14, as against 771,580,943 gallons in the previous year.

The revenue derived from the electric lighting installation was £18,933, as compared with £18,318 in 1912–13. The capital outlay on 31st March 1914 was £78,543, and the profit on the year's working after deducting interest was £8,047 (or 10·24 per cent.). The total number of units generated (exclusive of central station units) was 1,041,055, as compared with 1,067,883 units generated in 1912–13.

The total number of passports issued during the year was 2,029, as against 2,248 in the previous year. The number of passports issued for Australia, Canada and Northern Africa in the past two years is shown below :—

	1912–13.	1913–14.
Australia	365	433
Canada	514	642
Northern Africa	876	493
Total	1,755	1,568

I have &c.,

JOHN E. CLAUSON,

Lieutenant-Governor
and Chief Secretary to Government.

COLONIAL REPORTS, &c.

The following recent reports, &c., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page:—

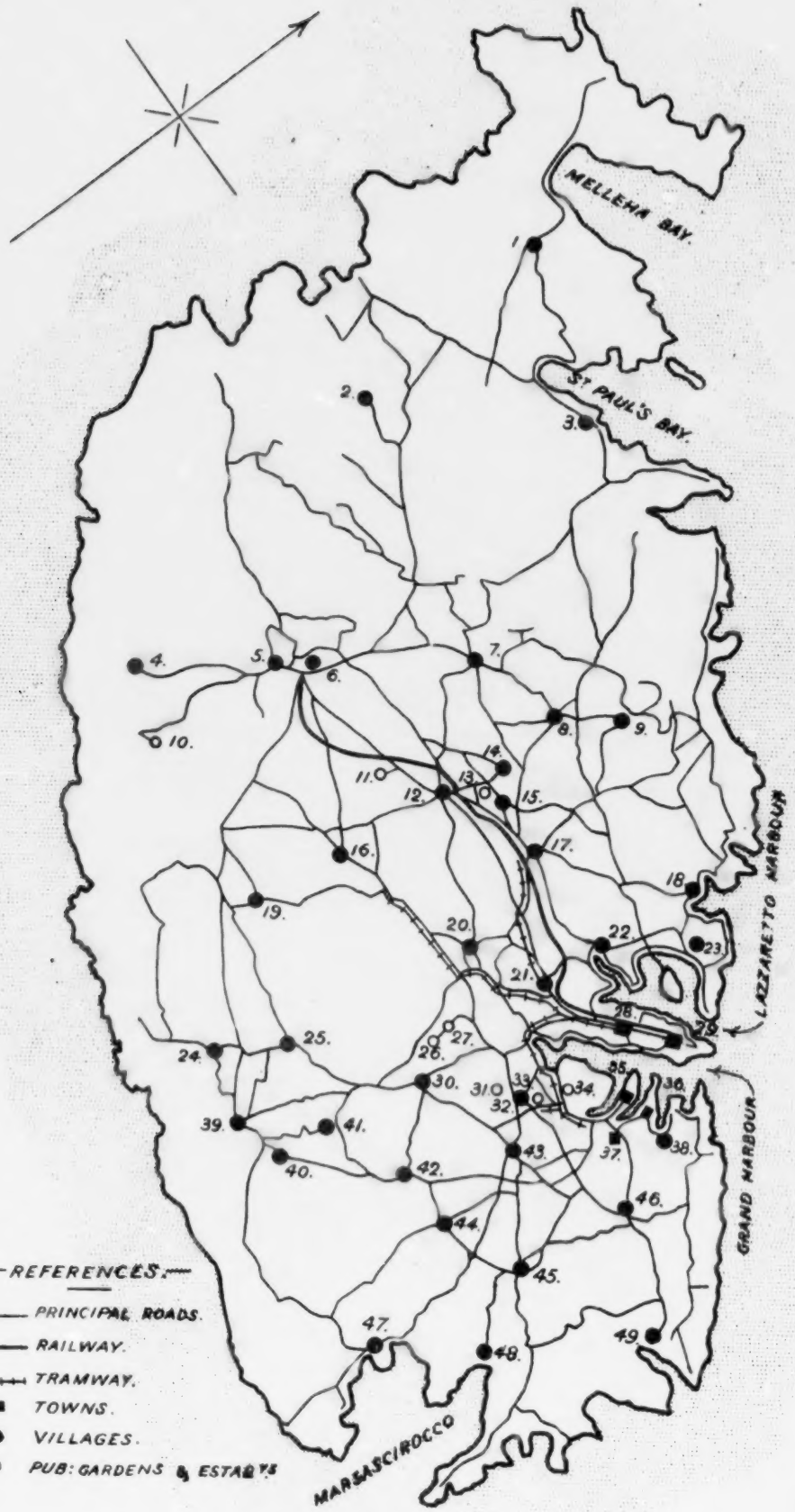
ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, &c.	Year.
780	British Guiana	1912–1913
781	Entomological Research Committee	,,
782	Southern Nigeria	1912
783	Jamaica	1912–1913
784	British Honduras	1912
785	Northern Nigeria	,,
786	Malta	1912–1913
787	Uganda	,,
788	Mauritius	1912
789	Straits Settlements	,,
790	Trinidad and Tobago	1912–1913
791	East Africa Protectorate	,,
792	Grenada	1912
793	Leeward Islands	1912–1913
794	St. Lucia	,,
795	St. Vincent	,,
796	Bermuda	1912
797	Ceylon	,,
798	Gibraltar	1913
799	St. Helena	,,
800	Turks and Caicos Islands	,,
801	Seychelles	,,
802	Ceylon	,,
803	Bermuda	,,
804	Weihaiwei	,,
805	Gambia	,,
806	Gold Coast	,,
807	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	,,
808	Sierra Leone	,,
809	Bahamas	1913–1914
810	Cayman Islands (Jamaica)	1912–1913
811	Fiji	1913
812	Ashanti	,,
813	Basutoland	1913–1914
814	Hong-Kong	1913
815	Bechuanaland Protectorate	1913–1914
816	Imperial Institute	1913
817	Falkland Islands	,,

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, &c.	Subject.
78	Weihaiwei	Census, 1911.
79	Northern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1907–8 and 1908-9.
80	Nyasaland	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
81	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
82	Imperial Institute	Rubber and Gutta-percha.
83	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1910.
84	West Indies	Preservation of Ancient Monuments, &c.
85	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1911.
86	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1912.
87	Ceylon	Mineral Survey.
88	Imperial Institute	Oilseeds, Oils, &c.
89	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1913.

SKETCH
MAP OF MALTA



1. MELLEHA
2. MIGIARRO.
3. ST PAUL'S BAY.
4. CASAL DINGLI.
5. RABATO.
6. NOTABILE.
7. CASAL MUSTA.
8. — Dº — NAXARO.
9. — Dº — GARGUR.
10. BOSCHETTO GARDENS.
11. LUNATIC ASYLUM.
12. CASAL ATTARD.
13. ST ANTONIO GARDENS.
14. CASAL LIA.
15. — Dº — BALZAN.
16. — Dº ZEBBUG.
17. — Dº BIRCHIRCARA.
18. ST JULIAN'S
19. CASAL SIGGIEUI.
20. — Dº — CURMI.
21. HAMRUN.
22. PIETA & MISIDA.
23. SLIEMA.
24. CASAL KRENDI.
25. — Dº — MICABIBA
26. LEPERS' HOSPITAL.
27. POOR HOUSE.
28. FLORIANA.
29. VALLETTA.
30. CASAL LUCA.
31. ADD. CEMETERY.
32. CASAL PAULA.
33. CORR CIVIL PRISON
34. MILITARY — Dº —
35. SENGLEA.
36. VITTORIOSA.
37. COSPICUA
38. CALCARA.
39. CASAL ZURRICO.
40. — Dº — SAFI
41. — Dº — CHIRCOP.
42. — Dº — GUDIA.
43. — Dº — TARXIEN.
44. — Dº — AXIAK.
45. — Dº — ZEITUN
46. — Dº — ZABBAR.
47. BIRZEBBUGIA.
48. MARSASCIROCCO.
49. MARSASCALA

— REFERENCES. —

— PRINCIPAL ROADS.
— RAILWAY.
— TRAMWAY.
■ TOWNS.
● VILLAGES.
○ PUB: GARDENS & ESTATES

C.O. Nº 14.

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Ordnance Survey, Southampton. 1914.

LONDON.
PRINTED BY THE AUTHORITY OF HIS MAJESTY'S
STATIONERY OFFICE
By BARCLAY AND FRY, THE GROVE, SOUTHWARK, S.E.
1914.

No. 854.

MALTA.

REPORT FOR 1914-15.

(For Report for 1913–14 see No. 818.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
September, 1915.

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Sketch Maps of Malta and Gozo.

No. 854.

MALTA.

(For Report for 1913–14 see No. 818.)

THE GOVERNOR TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

The Palace, Valletta,
16th August, 1915.

SIR,

I have the honour to forward, for your information, the accompanying report by the Lieutenant-Governor and Chief Secretary to Government on the Malta Blue Book for the year 1914–15.

I have, &c.,
METHUEN, F.M.,
Governor.

The Right Honourable
A. Bonar Law, M.P.,
&c., &c., &c.

(C192) Wt.36073/850. 1125 & 90. 9.15. B.&F.Lt 1., Gp.11/2.

Lieutenant-Governor's Office,

Malta, 14th August, 1915.

My Lord,

I have the honour to submit the following report on the annual Blue Book for the year 1914–15 :—

I.—FINANCIAL.

The revenue for 1914–15 amounted to £410,725 and the expenditure to £386,283 ; there was therefore an excess of revenue over expenditure of £24,442. The total amount received for duty on articles imported for His Majesty's Naval and Military Services, and subsequently refunded to the Imperial Government in the form of drawback, was £16,566. The actual revenue for the year was consequently £394,159, and the actual expenditure £369,717.

The net surplus on 31st March, 1915, stood at £63,693, as against £37,992 on the corresponding date of the previous year.

The revenue and expenditure for the past five years were as follows :—

Year.	*Revenue.*	*Expenditure.*
1910–11	£441,444	£467,373
1911–12	£448,114	£467,783
1912–13	£442,035	£427,581
1913–14	£423,108	£402,521
1914–15	£410,725	£386,283

Revenue.

The revenue collected in 1914–15 was less by £12,383 than that received in 1913–14. There were appreciable increases under Fees of Office and Reimbursements (£1,444), Water Service (£1,593), Interest (£505), and Land Sales (£2,031), while the important decreases were under :—

Customs (£12,160).—Due to decreased consumption of dutiable articles, owing to precarious financial situation caused by the war.

Harbour and Quarantine Dues (£2,402).—Due to the fact that since the outbreak of war the greater portion of British shipping calling at Malta has been under Admiralty charter, and therefore exempt from tonnage dues.

Licences, Court Fines, &c. (£968).—Due to surrender of wine and spirits licences, to a decrease in Court fines inflicted, and to a falling off in receipts from stamp duties.

Post Office (£1,508).—Due to shrinkage in the sale of stamps, attributable partly to the fact that a considerable number of letters have since the outbreak of war been posted on board His Majesty's transports without Malta stamps being used, and partly to the privilege accorded to men on active service of having their letters sent home free of charge.

EXPENDITURE.

The expenditure was £386,283, made up as follows:—

	£	£
Establishments:		
Personal emoluments	162,840	
Other charges	130,311	
		293,151
Interest and burthens		.. 21,228
Pensions		.. 26,647
Miscellaneous services		.. 536
Water and electric lighting works		.. 517
Public works		.. 44,204
		£386,283

As compared with that of 1913–14, the total expenditure for 1914–15 shows a decrease of £16,238.

The principal increase was under Pensions (£749), and the chief decreases were under:—

Customs and Port Department (£6,700).—Due to less drawback refunded owing to a shrinkage in the importation of dutiable articles required for the Imperial service, and to the fact that since the outbreak of war the exportation of manufactured wheat has been suspended.

Legal Departments (£1,076).—Due to various vacancies which remained unfilled for some time, to the reorganization of the establishment under which economies have been effected, and to the fact that the number of cases disposed of by the Courts in 1914–15 was less than in the previous year.

Charitable Institutions (£1,027).—Due principally to a reduction in the number of the inmates of the Poor House.

Post Office (£2,196).—Due mainly to the re-organization of the establishment and to the suspension of the mail contract since the outbreak of war.

Water Works and Electric Lighting Extraordinary (£1,391).—Due to suspension of works.

Public Works Annually Recurrent (£1,303), for which no special reason can be given.

Public Works Extraordinary (£1,276).—Due to the fact that certain works were not completed during the year.

The assets and liabilities of the Government at the close of the past two years are shown in the following table:—

Year.	*Assets.*	*Liabilities.*	*Surplus.*
	£	£	£
1913–14	749,754	711,762	37,992
1914–15	770,949	707,256	63,693
Increase	21,195	—	25,701
Decrease	—	4,506	—

In view of the present artificial depression of the stock market, the value of the securities forming part of the assets on 31st March, 1915, has been allowed to stand as on 31st March, 1914.

Currency in Circulation.

Roughly, the amount of legal currency in circulation on 31st March, 1915, was £899,000, made up as follows:—

	£	£
British gold	820,000	
British silver and bronze ..	40,000	
		860,000
Malta Government paper currency notes		39,000
		899,000

A certain amount of French bank notes and French gold and silver coins, roughly estimated at £15,000, is at present in circulation in these islands.

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

The total value of the imports of merchandise, including the value of goods entered by parcel post and excluding bullion and goods imported for transhipment, was £2,069,817, as compared with £2,510,934 in 1913–14, showing a decrease of £441,117.

IMPORTS.

The values of imports for the last three years under the main headings were as follows :—

	1912–13.	1913–14.	1914–15.
	£	£	£
Food, drink, and tobacco	1,300,701	1,100,775	1,188,695
Raw materials and articles mainly unmanufactured	636,730	729,330	343,594
Manufactured articles	482,827	463,588	406,696
Miscellaneous and unclassified ..	194,308	217,241	130,832
Total	£2,614,566	2,510,934	2,069,817

The value of imports during the year was £443,245 below the average for the past three years.

The increases and decreases in the declared value of imports calling for special notice were as follows :—

Increases.—Boots and shoes, £1,285; swine, £7,633; carob beans, £1,226; cocoa and chocolate, £3,120; firewood, £2,017; fresh and preserved fish, £10,297; fresh and preserved fruit, £1,617; millinery, £5,855, edible oils, £19,458; petroleum, £13,234; rice, £1,717; soap, £12,409; sugar, £33,992; wheat, £14,958; flour, £34,569; matches, £1,337; cotton goods, £7,252; cigars, £5,195; manufactured tobacco, £1,861; unmanufactured tobacco, £6,210; vegetables (fresh and preserved), £2,833; spirits £3,843; cheese, £5,517.

Decreases.—Bullocks, £21,878; horses, £1,814; beer, £12,009; beans, £21,267; caravances, £15,462; saggina, £15,448; charcoal, £4,506; coal, £384,930; coffee, £5,850; confectionery, £2,519; earthenware, £3,921; electrical goods, £2,614; glass, £4,760; barley, £3,091; leather, £4,736; meat, £3,029; metals and manufactures thereof, £10,449; cotton-seed oil, £7,700; potatoes, £1,953; pulse (exclusive of beans and caravances), £2,511; tea, £6,543; hosiery, £1,996; woollen goods, £11,437; yarns, £7,072; wines, £2,414; wood and timber, £9,183.

The following table shows the net amount of duty collected, as compared with the amount received in 1913–14:—

Articles.	Amount received 1913–14.	Amount received 1914–15.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Beer	18,669	13,965	—	4,704
Bullocks and other animals of the kind	4,817	3,537	—	1,280
Grains	57,051	52,768	—	4,283
Manufactured grain ..	38,902	41,718	2,816	—
Horses	322	171	—	151
Meat	—	346	346	—
Methylated spirits ..	99	131	32	—
Mules	23	55	32	—
Oil	2,771	2,279	—	492
Petroleum	5,630	5,959	329	—
Potatoes	2,954	2,525	—	429
Pulse	4,881	3,103	—	1,778
Seeds	1,452	1,497	45	—
Sheep	13	—	—	13
Spirits	23,704	23,980	276	—
Sugar	5,768	5,916	148	—
Tobacco	10,646	12,001	1,355	—
Varnish	30	8	—	22
Vinegar	32	33	1	—
Wine	33,199	32,865	—	334
Total	£208,084 (*a*)	202,857	Net decrease	5,227

(*a*) After deducting amounts paid as drawback on frozen meat in excess of duties received during the year.

The following figures show the imports in the past three years:—

	1912–13.		1913–14.		1914–15.	
	£	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	£	Per cent.
United Kingdom.	1,129,799	43·2	1,154,154	46·0	891,306	43·1
British Colonies..	103,848	4·0	61,183	2·4	88,817	4·3
Foreign Countries	1,380,919	52·8	1,295,597	51·6	1,089,694	52·6
Total ..	£2,614,566		2,510,934		2,069,817	

EXPORTS.

The value of exports amounted to £662,412, as against £1,053,854 in 1913–14, showing a decrease of £391,442 in the year under review.

Details of goods exported during the past three years are given below :—

	1912–13.		1913–14.		1914–15.	
United Kingdom.	£	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	£	Per cent.
Local produce ..	30,149	9·7	33,166	12·1	25,736	10·4
Foreign produce ..	15,746	2·4	18,355	2·4	11,021	2·7
British Possessions.						
Local produce ..	13,105	4·2	14,285	5·2	10,028	4·0
Foreign produce ..	1,535	0·2	2,401	0·3	1,824	0·4
Foreign Countries.						
Local produce ..	267,118	86·1	226,594	82·7	212,307	85·6
Foreign produce ..	650,003	97·4	759,053	97·3	401,496	96·9
Total.						
Local produce ..	310,372		274,045		248,071	
Foreign produce ..	667,284		779,809		414,341	
Total export trade ..	£977,656		1,053,854		662,412	

The principal increases in local exports were the following :—Potatoes, £8,705 ; cummin seed, £8,180 ; onions, £21,511.

There were decreases under :—Raw cotton, £5,838 ; flour and semola, £8,640 ; hides and skins, £3,141 ; textiles (cotton), £4,909 ; cigarettes, £6,780 ; preserved tomatoes, £4,781.

The exports under the main headings during the past three years were as follows :—

	1912–13.		1913–14.		1914–15.	
	£	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	£	Per cent.
Food, drink, and tobacco	221,646	22·7	192,670	18·3	194,756	29·4
Raw materials and articles mainly unmanufactured ..	630,538	64·5	749,507	71·1	405,433	61·2
Manufactured articles ..	67,532	6·9	60,274	5·7	33,836	5·1
Miscellaneous and unclassified.. ..	57,940	5·9	51,403	4·9	28,387	4·3
Total	£977,656		1,053,854		662,412	

Shipping.

The number and tonnage of steamers and sailing vessels which entered and cleared during the past two years are as follows :—

	1913–14.		1914–15.		Number.	Tonnage.
	Number	Tonnage	Number	Tonnage	Decrease	Decrease
Steamers.						
Entered	2,717	5,512,876	1,701	3,824,906	1,016	1,687,970
Cleared	2,722	5,520,447	1,700	3,824,037	1,022	1,696,410
Sailing vessels.						
Entered	649	33,217	508	27,342	141	5,875
Cleared	638	31,072	504	28,730	134	2,342
Total.						
Entered	3,366	5,546,093	2,209	3,852,248	1,157	1,693,845
Cleared	3,360	5,551,519	2,204	3,852,767	1,156	1,698,752

The nationality of steamers which called at Malta during the years 1913–14 and 1914–15 was as follows :—

Nationality.	Number of Steamers.		Tonnage.	
	1913–14.	1914–15.	1913–14.	1914–15.
British	1,169	876	2,846,121	2,357,893
Austrian	505*	186*	539,792	194,384
Belgian	44	24	70,680	38,044
Danish	8	4	9,895	6,862
Dutch	119	51	201,368	66,173
French	61	133	106,681	342,025
German	536	195	1,418,852	518,445
Hellenic	44	43	68,479	62,613
Italian	184	160	186,957	184,185
Norwegian	21	10	36,881	16,350
Swedish	12	12	12,138	26,854
Other Countries	14	7	15,032	11,078
Total Foreign	1,548	825	2,666,755	1,467,013
Total British and Foreign	2,717	1,701	5,512,876	3,824,906

* Including the subsidized mail steamer whose service was discontinued on the 10th August, 1914.

British steamers show decreases of 293 in number (25·1 per cent.) and of 488,228 in tonnage (17·2 per cent.).

Foreign steamers decreased in number by 723 (46·7 per cent.) and in tonnage by 1,199,742 (45 per cent.).

The following comparative table shows the percentage of tonnage of British and foreign steamers which entered and cleared at this port during the past two years :—

	Entered.						Cleared.					
	With cargo for Malta.		Without cargo for Malta.		Total.		With cargo for Malta.		Without cargo for Malta.		Total.	
	1913–14	1914–15	1913–14	1914–15	1913–14	1914–15	1913–14	1914–15	1913–14	1914–15	1913–14	1914–15
	p.c.	p.c.	p.c.	p.c.	p.c.	p.c.	p.c.	p.c.	p.c.	p.c.	p.c.	p.c.
British ..	55·2	60·4	48·9	62·9	51·6	61·7	53·2	61·9	50·7	61·4	51·5	61·6
Foreign ..	44·8	39·6	51·1	37·1	48·4	38·3	46·8	38·1	49·3	38·6	48·5	38·4

The total shipping entered and cleared during the last five years is shown below :—

Year.	Entered.		Cleared.	
	Number.	Tonnage.	Number.	Tonnage.
1910–11	3,059	4,337,736	3,048	4,329,301
1911–12	2,931	4,119,221	2,911	4,121,599
1912–13	3,485	5,208,478	3,469	5,199,470
1913–14	3,366	5,546,093	3,360	5,551,519
1914–15	2,209	3,852,248	2,204	3,852,767

AGRICULTURE.

The total area of land under cultivation was 41,617 acres, an increase of 14 acres over that of the previous year, while the area of uncultivated land was estimated at 4,809 acres, as against 4,812 in 1913–14.

At the end of the year under review the number of holdings was estimated at 11,106 (the average acreage being 3·7 acres per holding), as against 11,103 in 1913–14. The principal agricultural products were cereals, including wheat, barley, and "mischiato" (a mixture of both), forage, potatoes, cummin seed, and onions. The total area under cereals was 13,816 acres, as compared with 13,894 acres in the previous year, and the total yield in the past two years was as follows :

Year.	Wheat.	Barley.	Mischiato.	Total.
	Qrs.	Qrs.	Qrs.	Qrs.
1913–14 ..	26,338	17,360	6,298	49,996
1914–15	27,540	14,890	6,530	48,960
Total ..	53,878	32,250	12,828	98,956

The area under beans and other pulse was 2,058 acres, against 2,323 acres in 1913–14, and the total yield was 4,032 quarters, as compared with 3,920 quarters in the previous year. The area planted with tubers was 3,673 acres, as against 4,488 acres in 1913–14; and the total yield was 578,400 cwts., as compared with 387,122 cwts. in 1913–14, an increase of 191,278 cwts. The importation of potatoes shows a decrease of 15,608 cwts. The quantity imported during 1914–15 was 102,654 cwts., of which 62,438 cwts. were used as seed, and the rest (40,216 cwts.) consumed locally.

The area planted with onions was 1,703 acres, as against 1,119 acres in 1913–14. The yield amounted to 9,360 tons, as compared with 6,180 tons in the previous year.

Cummin seed was planted on 2,359 acres, against 1,546 acres in 1913–14. The yield amounted to 12,691 cwts., an increase of 4,343 cwts. on the yield of 1913–14.

The total quantity of oranges, lemons, and mandarines gathered is estimated at 175,000 dozen, as against 167,000 in 1913–14.

Cotton was grown on 1,006 acres, as against 1,042 acres, and the total yield was 196,490 lb. (or an average of 195 lb. per acre), against 225,860 lb. (an average of 211 lb. per acre) in 1913–14. The average price per lb. obtained was $6\frac{3}{4}$d. The quantity exported was 40,985 lb., chiefly to Italy. There was no exportation of cotton to the United Kingdom.

10,894 acres were under clover, barley green, vetches, etc., as against 11,108 acres in the previous year. The total yield amounted to 308,620 loads of ten bundles each, as compared with 389,460 loads in 1913–14.

Crops generally were backward up to the middle of March, but were much benefited by the unusual rains which fell on thirteen days between the 11th March and the 16th April, about 4 inches being registered.

Fisheries.

Seven hundred and eighty-nine boats are engaged in the fishing industry, and the number of hands employed is estimated at three thousand one hundred and fifty-six.

III.—LEGISLATION.

The number of Ordinances passed by the Legislature during the year was 23, the more important being :—

No. VI. of 1914.—"An Ordinance to prevent the disclosure of official documents and information." The object of this Ordinance was to adapt the provisions of the Official Secrets Act, 1911, to Malta.

No. VIII. of 1914.—"An Ordinance to provide for the temporary issue of a Government paper currency." This is the first of a series of emergency enactments passed in consequence of the war. Its object was to authorize the issue of a paper currency consisting of notes of a denomination of not less than 5s.

No. IX. of 1914.—"An Ordinance to regulate aerial navigation over these islands." This Ordinance is an adaptation of the provisions of the two Imperial Aerial Navigation Acts of 1911 and 1913, arranged into one enactment.

No. X. of 1914.—"An Ordinance for the regulation of public weighers and of weights and measures in use in these islands, and other purposes connected therewith." This Ordinance supersedes for the time being the Metric System Ordinance (Ordinance No. XII. of 1910), which was designed to introduce the metric system of weights and measures into these islands, but which has not yet been brought into force.

No. XI. of 1914.—"An Ordinance to grant temporarily certain powers for controlling trade and business in respect of food supplies and other commodities of primary necessity and regulating the distribution thereof." This is an emergency measure of a temporary character necessitated by the abnormal conditions arising out of the war.

No. XII. of 1914.—"An Ordinance to amend the Criminal Laws." This measure introduces a system of respite for the payment of fines, reduces the minimum fine established by law, facilitates the suppression of gaming houses, and penalizes the acceptance by public officers, by way of bribes, of any valuable consideration, though not consisting of money or other tangible gift.

No. XIII. of 1914.—"An Ordinance to make provision for penalties for trading with the enemy." By this Ordinance statutory sanction is given to the provisions of the Royal Proclamation of the 9th September, 1914, dealing with trade with the enemy. This Ordinance was subsequently amended by Ordinances Nos. XV. and XXI. of 1914.

No. XIV. of 1914.—"An Ordinance to consolidate the laws relating to the duties of customs." This Ordinance consolidates, with some amendments, the several enactments relating to the duties on imports, and supersedes the fiscal portion of the Malta Revenue and General Purposes Order in Council, 1901, the operation of which was limited to 14 years.

No. XVI. of 1914.—"An Ordinance to make provision respecting stamp duties." This Ordinance reproduces the provisions of the Malta Revenue and General Purposes Order in Council, 1901, relating to the levying of stamp duties.

No. XVII. of 1914.—"An Ordinance to amend Article 5 of the laws of Organization and Civil Procedure." This Ordinance re-enacts the provision contained in the Malta Revenue and General Purposes Order in Council, 1901, relating to the appointment of graduates of the Malta University to judicial and magisterial offices.

No. XIX. of 1914.—"An Ordinance to extend temporarily to the importation of all goods generally the provisions of section 30 of Ordinance No. VI. of 1840." The object of this Ordinance was to enable the Government to prohibit or restrict, for the protection of the economic or political interests of these islands, the importation of goods suspected to be of enemy origin.

No. XX. of 1914.—"An Ordinance to grant temporarily additional powers for securing the public safety and the defence of these Islands." This Ordinance vests the Governor with additional powers during the war for preventing persons from communicating with the enemy and obtaining information for disloyal purposes and for securing the public safety and the defence of these islands.

No. XXII. of 1914.—"An Ordinance to amend the law relating to tonnage and port dues." This Ordinance authorizes the charging of port dues to ships propelled by electricity or other mechanical power, and consolidates the existing enactments respecting harbour dues.

No. I. of 1915.—"An Ordinance to provide temporarily for the exemption of certain goods from the payment of customs duties." This measure exempts from payment of customs duties all gifts subscribed by the general public, or made by individuals, to the troops or to individual members of His Majesty's Forces at present on active service in Malta.

IV.—EDUCATION.

Elementary Education.

During the scholastic year, 1st September, 1913 to 31st August, 1914, the number of Government day schools comprised 40 boys' schools (31 in Malta and 9 in Gozo), 40 girls' schools (31 in Malta and 9 in Gozo), and 10 infant schools (9 in Malta and 1 in Gozo). The girls' schools generally included infant divisions.

The average number of scholars on the registers was 20,692 (10,947 boys and 9,745 girls), and the average attendance 17,588 (9,425 boys and 8,163 girls). The percentage of the average attendance to the average number on the registers was 85·0. The figures for the previous year were 18,892, 16,105, and 85·2 respectively.

The highest enrolment during the year was 24,697 (12,907 boys and 11,790 girls), while the lowest was 16,762 (8,911 boys and 7,851 girls). The figures for the previous year were 21,845 and 15,880 respectively.

On the 31st July, 1914, the schools were attended by 21,800 scholars (11,246 boys and 10,554 girls), as against 19,590 in 1913.

The average number of pupils on the registers in the drawing classes was 723, and the average attendance 496. In the modelling and wood-carving classes the figures were 109 and 80, respectively.

5,052 new scholars were admitted during the year, and 3,620 were withdrawn.

The number of night schools was 38 (29 in Malta and 9 in Gozo), with an average enrolment of 2,239 and an average attendance of 1,248. The corresponding figures for the previous year were 1,846 and 949.

The total strength of the teaching staff of the elementary schools was 793, and comprised 40 masters, 51 mistresses and 510 assistant teachers (220 men and 290 women), 55 monitors, 126 monitresses, and 11 teachers for instruction in special subjects (drawing, modelling and wood-carving, dress-cutting and lace-making). Twenty-six masters and twenty-nine mistresses of the teaching staff have undergone courses of training in England.

The local training schools were attended by 162 males and 200 females, as compared with 170 and 196, respectively, in 1913–14.

The total expenditure on elementary education during the financial year 1914–15 was £27,950, as compared with £27,520 in the previous year.

Calculated on the average number of scholars on the registers, the average cost per head was 24s. 4d., and calculated on the average attendance, 29s. 9d.

Secondary Education.

The attendance in the Lyceum for the scholastic year 1913–14 was 495. The average percentage of attendance was 94 in the obligatory subjects, 85 in the optional subjects, and 63 in the classes of marine and electrical engineering.

The Boys' Secondary School, Gozo, was attended by 38 pupils, who made an average attendance of 95 per cent., as compared with an attendance of 51 and a percentage of attendance of 94 in the previous year.

The Girls' Secondary School, Malta, was attended by 194 pupils, as against 187 in the preceding year; the average percentage of attendance was 86, as compared with 82.

The total cost of secondary education was £4,639, and included Lyceum (£3,649), Boys' Secondary School, Gozo (£292), and Girls' Secondary School, Malta (£698): the revenue was £1,266, inclusive of £874 from the Lyceum and £392 from the Girls' Secondary School. The average cost per student was £5 15s. 6d. in the Lyceum, £7 13s. 11d. in the Secondary School, Gozo, and £1 11s. 6d. in the Girls' Secondary School, Malta.

University.

The average number of students attending the University was 176, as compared with 220 in the previous year, and included students in Theology (11), Law (18), Medicine (18), Literature and Science (78), Pharmacy (25), and Engineering and Architecture (26).

Sixty candidates entered for the Matriculation examination held in 1914, of whom 37 were successful.

The cost of the University, including the Botanic Gardens, was £6,029, and the revenue was £1,484; the average cost per student was £22 18*s*. 11*d*., as compared with £16 10*s*. 2*d*. in the previous year.

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

Hospitals, Asylums, etc.

In 1914–15, 3,407 patients were admitted into the hospitals of Malta and Gozo, as against 3,544 for the previous year. There were 411 deaths, as compared with 398 in 1913–14. In addition to these, 138,078 persons were attended by the district medical officers at the Government dispensaries or at their own residences, as against 140,795 in the previous year.

There were 777 patients in the Lunatic Asylum on 31st March, 1915. The number of admissions was 160; 37 were discharged as cured, 11 as relieved, 8 not improved, 26 not subjects for the Asylum. The number of deaths was 34.

The number of inmates in the Leper Hospital increased from 108 on 31st March, 1914, to 109 at the end of the year. The number of deaths was 15.

The recipients of relief at the Poor Houses at Malta and Gozo and the Orphan Asylum were 1,111, as compared with 1,357 in the preceding year.

The number of persons receiving outdoor relief during the year was 4,031.

The total cost of the charitable institutions in Malta and Gozo (exclusive of works) was £71,917.

Savings Bank.

The number of depositors in the Savings Bank on 31st March, 1915, was 6,862.

The Bank's liabilities were made up of £508,977 due to depositors, and of £15,000 due for advances out of the Note Fund, making up a total of £523,997. Of this amount a sum of £521,882 was invested in British and Colonial securities and in the Monte di Pieta.

The deposits made during the year amounted to £114,761 and the withdrawals to £151,946, as against £104,933 and £116,066, respectively, in 1913–14.

The revenue derived from interest on invested funds, unappropriated interest, and sale of passbooks was £16,824, whilst the expenses of management and interest to depositors amounted to £11,097, leaving a net profit of £5,727.

In the Gozo Savings Bank there were 724 depositors on the 31st March, 1915, the total amount standing to their credit being £53,358. The deposits made during the year amounted to £4,281, and the withdrawals to £14,533, as compared with £8,902 and £14,884, respectively, in the previous year.

VI.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

Police.

The establishment of the police on 31st March, 1915, was 35 officers and 494 non-commissioned officers and men, and the actual strength was 29 officers and 483 non-commissioned officers and men.

The total cost of the police for the year 1914–15 was £31,969, made up of £27,127 for personal emoluments and £4,842 for other charges.

Prisons.

The total number of persons committed, exclusive of debtors, was 4,944, of whom 3,987 were males and 957 females. The following is a comparative statement of committals for the past two years:—

	1913–14.	1914–15.
Malta—		
Criminal prisoners	8,182	4,379
Debtors	8	9
Gozo—		
Criminal prisoners	803	565
Total	8,993	4,953

The number of persons sentenced to imprisonment with or without hard labour was 788, as against 589 in the previous year. The number of prisoners under detention (not confined in association with prisoners under hard labour or imprisonment) was 3,591, as against 7,593 in 1913–14.

The juvenile offenders were 583, as compared with 895 in 1913–14.

The general health of the prisoners was good. Thirty prisoners were admitted to the prison infirmary during the year, and the daily average on the sick-list, including prisoners on medical diet not admitted into the infirmary, was 62·9, as against 37·88 in the previous year.

No deaths occurred during the year.

The number of offences against discipline by prisoners was 1,312, as compared with 1,505 in 1913–14.

The prisoners were employed on various kinds of work, e.g., pumping water, stone-breaking, cultivation of prison lands, manufacturing coir mats, cleaning, washing, making and mending clothing and bedding for the prison; and those who knew a trade were employed on tinsmith work, painting, white-washing, masonry, and carpentry.

The total cost of the prisons in the two islands was £5,588.

Criminal and Judicial Statistics.

The number of offences reported to the police was 35,092, as against 35,570 in 1913–14, a decrease of 478.

They may be classified as follows:—

Homicide	3
Other offences against the person	5,176
Offences against the good order of families	128
Offences against property	4,379
Other offences..	25,406
	35,092

The number of offences dealt with by the Court of Judicial Police in Malta and Gozo was 25,789, as shown below:—

	Malta.	Gozo.	Total.
Crimes	1,063	49	1,112
Contraventions	22,710	1,967	24,677
Total	23,773	2,016	25,789

The number of offences not dealt with by the Courts was 9,303, or 26 per cent. of the total number reported to the police, while the number of crimes the perpetrators of which were not discovered was 117, or 6·06 per cent. of the total number reported, which was 1,928.

In connection with the offences dealt with by the Courts of Judicial Police, 25,789 persons were summoned before the magistrates, as compared with 23,980 in the previous year, an increase of 1,809.

They were dealt with as follows:—

Summarily convicted	24,737
Committed for trial	109
Acquitted	494
Discharged for want of evidence or in default of prosecution	449
	25,789

The persons summarily convicted were dealt with as follows:—

Imprisoned	4,185
Fined	13,508
Fined and imprisoned	50
Bound over	548
Admonished	6,413
Awarded other punishments ..	33
	24,737

The number of persons admonished was 6,413, or 25·9 per cent. of the number of summary convictions, as against 21 per cent. in the previous year.

One hundred and nine persons were tried by jury during the year 1914–15, as against 149 in 1913–14.

The results were as follows:—

	1913–14.	1914–15.
Convicted	120	77
Acquitted	29	32
	149	109

The offences in respect of which conviction was secured may be classified as follows:—

Wilful homicide	1
Manslaughter	1
Attempted homicide	2
Other offences against the person	17
Robbery with violence	3
Other offences against property	29
Offences against the good order of families	6
False evidence	1
Miscellaneous offences	17
Total	77

One thousand three hundred and twelve cases were instituted in the Civil Court, First Hall, as against 1,461 in the previous year, of which 497 were for the determination of a point of fact or law (unliquidated claims), and the rest for the recovery of specific sums of money amounting in the aggregate to £52,841.

In the Commercial Court 632 cases were introduced, as compared with 759 in 1913–14, of which 148 cases were for the determination of a point of fact or law (unliquidated claims), and the rest for the recovery of stated sums of money amounting in the aggregate to £22,559.

The business transacted in the Civil Court, Second Hall, was as follows :—

Applications disposed of	1,288
Secret wills deposited	42
Secret wills withdrawn	12
Deposits made	£47

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

The civil population of 1st April, 1915 was estimated at 218,542, as against 216,879 on 1st April, 1914.

The total number of births in the last two years was as follows :—

	1913–14.	1914–15.
Males	3,787	3,717
Females	3,376	3,236
Total	7,163	6,953

The birth-rate in the year under review was 31·81 per mille, as compared with 33·02 per mille in the previous year. The average birth-rate for the past twelve years was 36·36 per mille.

The total number of deaths reported was as follows :—

	1913–14.	1914–15.
Males	2,724	2,361
Females	2,426	2,208
Total	5,150	4,569

The death-rate in 1914–15 was 20·90 per mille, as against 23·61 in 1913–14, while the average death-rate for the past decade (1905–15) was 19·40 per mille.

The number of marriages was 1,121, as compared with 1,235 in the previous year.

The general state of health of the islands during the year was very good.

The following table gives the number of cases of infectious diseases and the number of deaths from each disease, including cases and deaths in the fleet and garrison, during the past two years :—

	1913–14.		1914–15.	
	Number of cases.	Number of deaths.	Number of cases.	Number of deaths.
Chicken-pox	94	—	107	1
Diphtheria	40	8	34	12
Enteric Fever	566	107	439	63
Erysipelas	86	12	69	5
Puerperal Fever	6	1	20	4
Influenza	40	2	264	1
Malarial Fever	22	—	6	1
Measles	13	—	8	—
Undulant Fever	343	25	325	22
Scarlet Fever	8	—	13	1
Small-pox	—	—	—	—
Tubercular Phthisis ..	231	199	210	176
Whooping-cough	1,849	72	63	5
Epidemic cerebro-spinal fever	—	—	2	1
Total	3,298	426	1,560	292

The total number of cases of undulant fever reported from the fleet and garrison was only 3. The number of goats and sheep found infected and destroyed during the year was 403 out of a total of 7,415 examined.

All cases of malarial fever shown in the table were contracted abroad.

Four thousand three hundred and twenty-eight persons were successfully vaccinated.

The death-rate among children under twelve months was 242·48 per 1,000 births, as against 268·28 in the previous year. The death-rate of children under five years was 89·19 per 1,000 of the population at that age as compared with 105·43 in the previous year.

The meteorological returns for 1914–15 are summarised in the following table :—

	Temperature.					Rainfall.		Wind.	
	Solar max.	Shade max.	Shade min.	Mean daily range.	Mean temp.	No. of inches.	Mean % humidity.	General directions.	Average force (0-10)
1914.									
April	131·0	74·5	51·2	10·2	58·4	0·02	82·8	E. & N.W.	3·3
May	129·0	78·1	56·5	8·2	65·3	0·04	78·7	N.W. & N.	4·0
June	132·0	86·0	60·5	10·2	69·7	—	71·2	N. W. & N.	3·0
July	138·0	89·2	66·5	10·9	73·9	—	73·8	N. W. & E.	3·1
August ..	138·0	86·0	68·4	16·6	75·1	0·07	76·4	N.W. & N.N.W.	2·5
September ..	141·0	83·8	62·0	9·6	72·2	1·34	70·5	N.N.W. & N.W.	2·8
October ..	134·0	77·0	61·2	5·8	68·6	2·03	76·1	W. & N.W.	2·7
November ..	131·0	75·2	50·9	10·1	61·7	3·49	79·1	N.W. & N.N.W.	3·0
December ..	140·0	66·2	49·8	3·9	56·3	1·07	88·5	W.N.W. & N.W.	3·5
1915.									
January ..	142·0	68·9	45·5	9·2	54·3	1·79	85·6	N.W. & W.N.W.	3·8
February ..	141·0	65·3	43·0	11·0	53·0	2·09	86·4	N.W. & N.N.W.	3·4
March	139·0	79·3	46·0	56·9	56·0	1·50	86·4	N.W. & W.	3·0

The highest temperature in the shade was 91·0° at Casal Crendi and St. Paul's Bay on the 23rd June, and the lowest 40° at Casal Zebbug, Gozo, on the 2nd February. The mean temperature for the year was 63·7°, as compared with 65·2° in 1913–14.

The mean temperature for the summer months of June, July, August and September, was 72·7°. In 1913–14 it was 75·2°. The mean temperature for the winter months of January, February, and March was 54·4°, or 0·2° higher than that of the preceding year.

The total rainfall was 13·44 inches, or 11·671 inches lower than that of 1913–14. Rain fell on 67 days.

The prevailing winds were : N.W. on 81 days, E. on 38 days, S.W. on 37 days, W. on 32 days, and N. on 29 days. The average velocity of the wind was 9·6 miles per hour. The average number of hours of bright sunshine per day was 7·1, as compared with 7·9 in 1913–14.

Two local earthquakes were registered, on the 19th and 23rd March ; 23 shocks from distant centres of disturbance were recorded by the Milne Seismograph.

VIII.—POSTAL AND TELEPHONE SERVICES.

Details of the postal matter dealt with in the past two years are given in the following table :—

	1913–14.		1914–15.	
	Received.	Despatched.	Received.	Despatched.
Letters	1,999,790	2,602,418	2,445,817	3,143,041
Post Cards ..	313,157	234,845	384,477	259,818
Printed Matter ..	844,155	818,012	751,065	1,004,462
Parcels	50,412	19,000	68,037	15,531
	3,207,514	3,674,275	3,649,396	4,422,852
	6,881,789		8,072,248	

The total number of mails received during the year was 4,786, and the number despatched 3,039, as against 7,416 and 5,638, respectively, in 1913–14.

The total number of registered articles received and despatched was 128,323, as against 165,573 in the previous year, a decrease of 37,250.

The total number of money orders issued and paid in the Colony was 18,412 (£97,594), and the total number of postal orders issued and paid was 98,534 (£54,883).

The total number of parcels received and despatched was 83,568, as against 69,412 in 1913–14, showing an increase of 14,156.

The total length of aerial telephone wires belonging to the Melita Telephone Exchange is 785 miles.

IX.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

The gross revenue of the Railway during 1914–15 was £6,314, as against £6,564 in 1913–14 ; and the expenditure, including additions and renewals (£359), was £6,561, a net loss of £247 on the year's working. In addition to the above £116 was expended on the Railway Technical School.

The revenue derived from water supplied, laying house services, and rent of meters was £20,971, as compared with £19,378 in 1913–14. 693,000,000 gallons of water were consumed in 1914–15, as against 681,000,000 gallons in the previous year.

The revenue derived from the electric lighting installation was £18,781, as compared with £18,933 in 1913–14. The capital outlay on 31st March, 1915 was £79,099, and the profit on the year's working after deducting interest was £7,203 (or 9·1 per cent.). The total number of units generated (exclusive of central station units) was 1,025,157, as compared with 1,041,055 units generated in 1913–14.

The total number of passports issued during the year was 981, as against 2,029 in the previous year. The number of passports issued for Australia, Canada, and Northern Africa in the past two years is shown below :—

	1913–14.	1914–15.
Australia	433	215
Canada	642	20
Northern Africa	493	315
Total	1,568	550

I have, &c.,

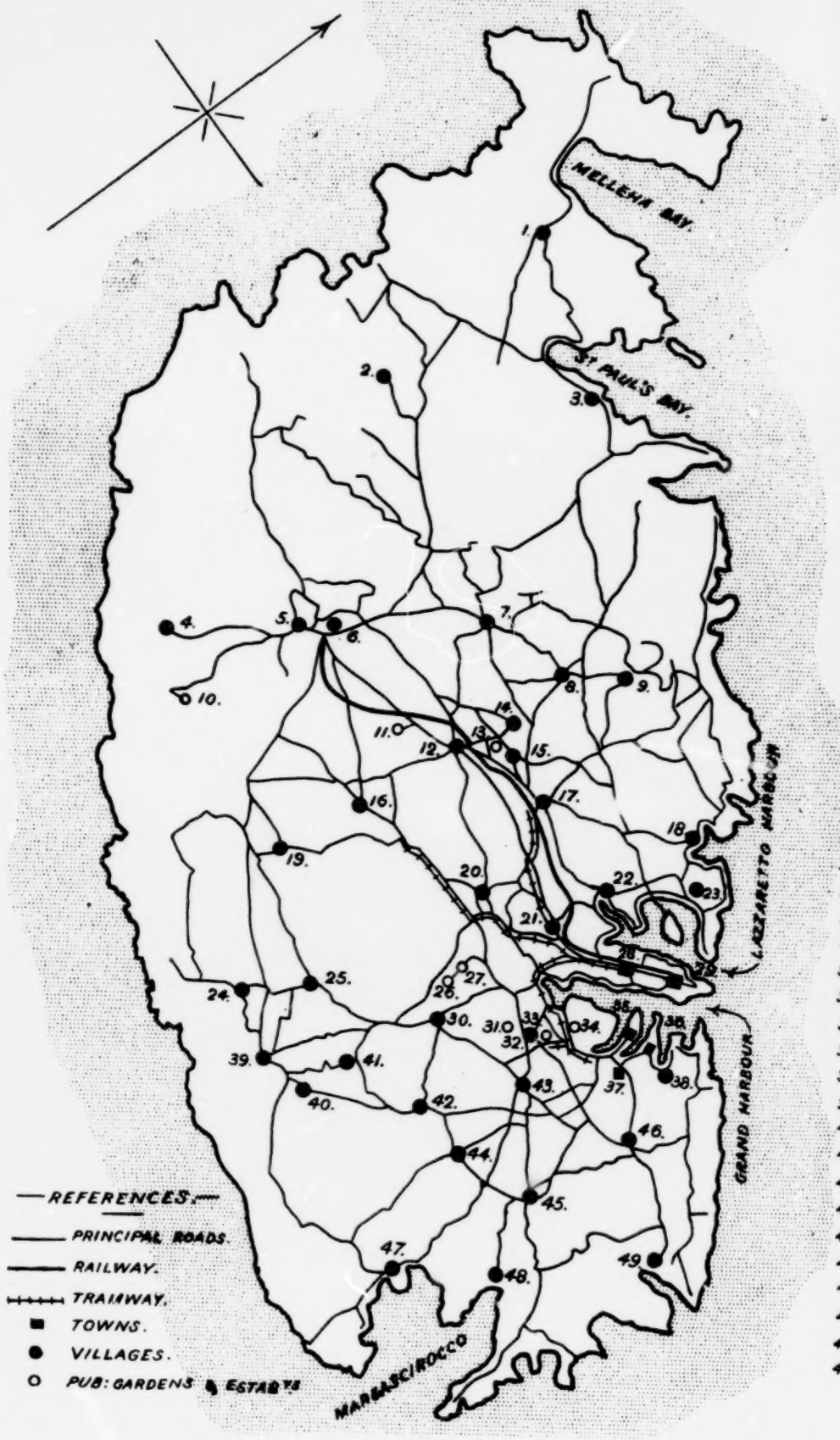
H. A. Byatt,

Lieutenant-Governor and
Chief Secretary to Government.

His Excellency
The Governor.

SKETCH

MAP OF MALTA



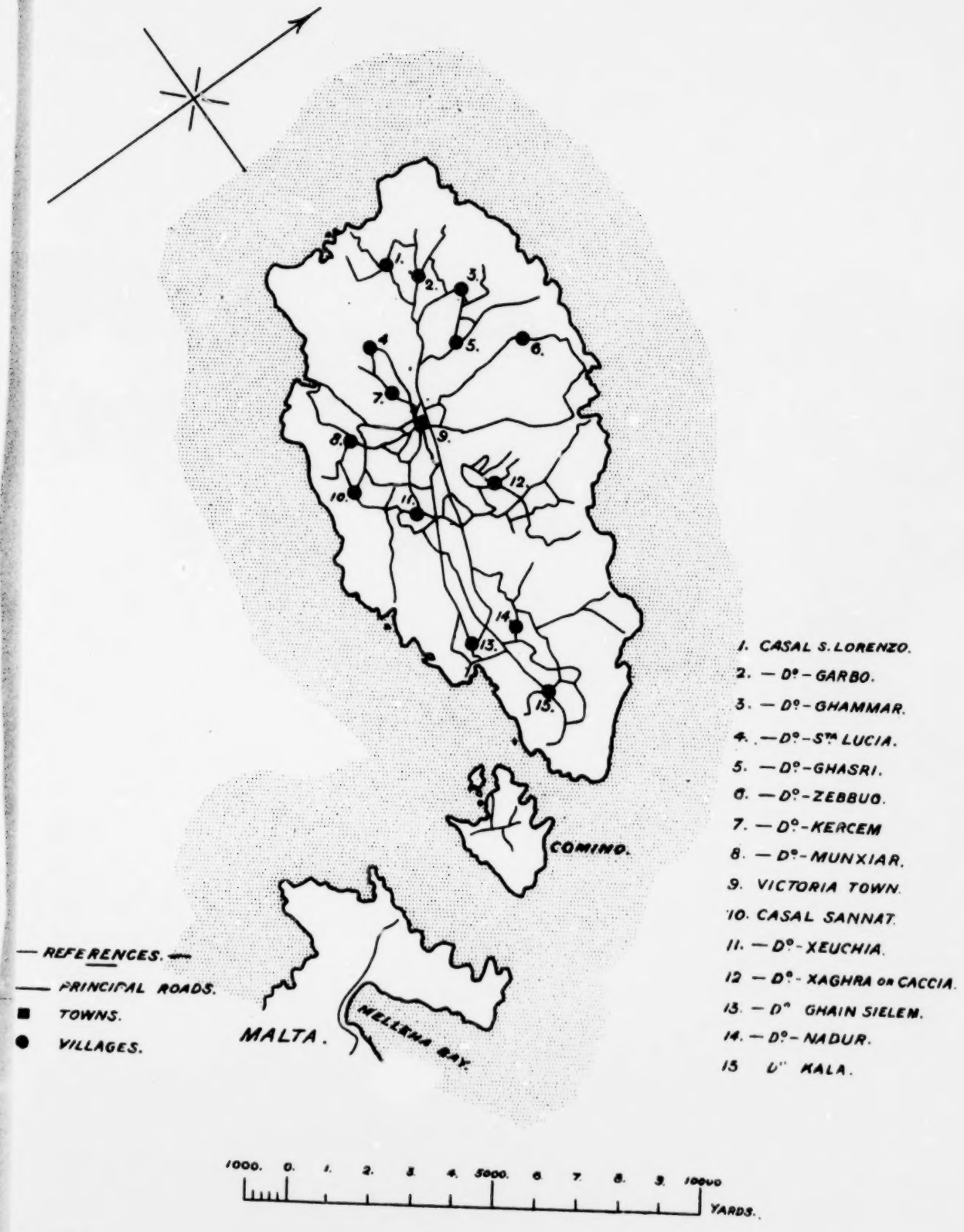
1. MELLEHA
2. MIGIARRO.
3. ST PAUL'S BAY.
4. CASAL DINGLI.
5. RABATO.
6. NOTABILE.
7. CASAL MUSTA.
8. — Dº — NAXARO.
9. — Dº — GARGUR.
10. BOSCHETTO GARDENS.
11. LUNATIC ASYLUM.
12. CASAL ATTARD.
13. ST ANTONIO GARDENS.
14. CASAL LIA.
15. — Dº BALZAN.
16. — Dº ZEBBUG.
17. — Dº BIRCHIRCARA.
18. ST JULIAN'S
19. CASAL SIGGIEUI.
20. — Dº — CURMI
21. HAMRUN.
22. PIETÀ & MISIDA.
23. SLIEMA.
24. CASAL KRENDI.
25. — Dº — MICABIBA
26. LEPERS' HOSPITAL.
27. POOR HOUSE.
28. FLORIANA.
29. VALLETTA.
30. CASAL LUCA.
31. ADD. CEMETERY.
32. CASAL PAULA.
33. CORR: CIVIL PRISON
34. MILITARY — Dº —
35. SENGLEA.
36. VITTORIOSA.
37. COSPICUA
38. CALCARA.
39. CASAL ZURRICO.
40. — Dº — SAFI.
41. — Dº — CHIRCOP.
42. — Dº — GUDIA.
43. — Dº — TARXIEN.
44. — Dº — AXIAK.
45. — Dº — ZEITUN.
46. — Dº — ZABBAR.
47. BIRZEBBUGIA.
48. MARSASCIROCCO.
49. MARSASCALA

C.O. Nº 14.

1000 0. 1. 2. 3. 4 5000. 6. 7. 8. 9. 10000. YARDS.

Ordnance Survey, Southampton, 1915.

SKETCH
MAP OF GOZO


1. CASAL S. LORENZO.
2. — Dº - GARBO.
3. — Dº - GHAMMAR.
4. — Dº - Stª LUCIA.
5. — Dº - GHASRI.
6. — Dº - ZEBBUG.
7. — Dº - KERCEM
8. — Dº - MUNXIAR.
9. VICTORIA TOWN.
10. CASAL SANNAT.
11. — Dº - XEUCHIA.
12 — Dº - XAGHRA or CACCIA.
13. — Dº GHAIN SIELEM.
14. — Dº - NADUR.
15 Dº KALA.
COMINO.
MALTA.
MELLEHA BAY.
— REFERENCES. —
PRINCIPAL ROADS.
TOWNS.
VILLAGES.
1000. 0. 1. 2. 3. 4. 5000. 6. 7. 8. 9. 10000
YARDS.

C.O., Nº 15.

Ordnance Survey, Southampton, 1914.

COLONIAL REPORTS, &c.

The following recent reports, &c., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, &c.	Year.
817	Falkland Islands	1913
818	Malta	1913–1914
819	Trinidad and Tobago	„
820	Jamaica	„
821	Northern Nigeria	1913
822	Grenada	„
823	Zanzibar	„
824	Barbados	1913–1914
825	Southern Nigeria	1913
826	Mauritius	„
827	British Honduras	„
828	Colonial Survey Committee	1913–1914
829	Tongan Islands Protectorate	„
830	Swaziland	„
831	Uganda	„
832	Nyasaland	„
833	British Guiana	„
834	Imperial Bureau of Entomology	1914
835	St. Vincent	1913–1914
836	St. Lucia	„
837	Somaliland	„
838	Straits Settlements	1913
839	Cayman Islands	1913–1914
840	East Africa Protectorate	„
841	Leeward Islands	„
842	Gilbert and Ellice Islands	„
843	Zanzibar	1914
844	Turks and Caicos Islands	„
845	Weihaiwei	„
846	Seychelles	„
847	St. Helena	„
848	Fiji	„
849	Bahamas	1914–1915
850	Gibraltar	1914
851	Sierra Leone	„
852	Grenada	1914–1915
853	Bermuda	1914

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, &c.	Subject.
79	Northern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1907–8 and 1908–9.
80	Nyasaland	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
81	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
82	Imperial Institute	Rubber and Gutta-percha.
83	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1910.
84	West Indies	Preservation of Ancient Monuments, &c.
85	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1911.
86	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1912.
87	Ceylon	Mineral Survey.
88	Imperial Institute	Oilseeds, Oils, &c.
89	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1913.
90	St. Vincent	Roads and Land Settlement.

LONDON:
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BY BARCLAY AND FRY, LTD., THE GROVE, SOUTHWARK STREET, S.E

1915.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 895.

MALTA.

REPORT FOR 1915-1916.

(For Report for 1914–1915 see No. 854.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
September, 1916.

LONDON:
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Sketch Maps will be found in the previous Report, No. 854: [Cd. 7622–45.]

No. 895.

MALTA.

(For Report for 1914-15 see No. 854.)

THE GOVERNOR TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

The Palace, Valletta,
12th August, 1916.

SIR,

I have the honour to forward, for your information, the accompanying report by the Lieutenant-Governor and Chief Secretary to Government on the Malta Blue Book for the year 1915-16.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient, humble servant,
METHUEN, F.M.,
Governor.

The Right Honourable
A. Bonar Law, M.P.,
&c., &c., &c.

(C297) Wt.45316/1003. 1000 & 90. 9.16. B.&F.Ltd. G 11/2

ANNUAL REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK FOR THE YEAR 1915–16.

Lieutenant-Governor's Office,

Malta, 12th August, 1916.

My Lord,

I have the honour to submit the following report on the annual Blue Book for the year 1915–16 :—

I.—FINANCIAL.

The revenue for the year 1915–16 was £463,002 and the expenditure £410,389; the revenue, therefore, exceeded the expenditure by £52,613. The total amount received for duty on articles imported for His Majesty's Naval and Military Services, and subsequently refunded to the Imperial Government in the form of drawback, was £24,945. The actual revenue for the year was, therefore, £438,057, and the actual expenditure £385,444.

After carrying to Depreciation Fund a sum of £70,928 to cover further depreciation on securities, the net surplus on 31st March, 1916, stood at £45,378, as against £63,693 on the corresponding date of the previous year.

The revenue and expenditure for the five preceding years were as follows :—

Year.	*Revenue.*	*Expenditure.*
1910–11	£441,444	£467,373
1911–12	£448,114	£467,783
1912–13	£442,035	£427,581
1913–14	£423,108	£402,521
1914–15	£410,725	£386,283

Revenue.

The revenue collected in 1915–16 exceeded that of 1914–15 by £52,277. The only important decreases were under Harbour and Quarantine Dues (£1,474); Interest (£1,112); and Land Sales (£1,437) : while there were appreciable increases under :—

Customs (£38,433), due to increased consumption of dutiable articles, attributable to an increase in population caused by the establishment of temporary Military Hospitals, etc.

Post Office (£4,330), due to an increase in the sale of postage stamps.

Railway (£2,374), due to increased traffic.

Water Service (£2,809), due to increased consumption of water in the Naval and Military Establishments, and to an increase in the rate for water supplied to shipping.

Electric Lighting (£2,325), due to increased consumption of current by the public and in War Department buildings.

Rents (£1,268), due mainly to payment of arrears of previous years.

EXPENDITURE.

The expenditure amounted to £410,389, made up as follows:—

	£	£
Establishments:		
Personal emoluments	162,395	
Other charges	145,258	
		307,653
Interest and burthens	20,446	
Pensions	26,163	
Miscellaneous services	4,373	
Water and electric lighting works ..	3,922	
Public works	47,832	
		£102,736
		£410,389

As compared with that of 1914–15, the total expenditure for 1915–16 shows an increase of £24,106.

The principal increases were under:—

Customs and Port Department (£10,230), due to an increase in the amount refunded in the form of drawback owing to increased importation of dutiable articles for the Imperial Service; to an increase in the amount refunded for revenue overpaid, and to the employment of more Revenue Guards owing to war conditions.

Railway Department (£1,651), due, principally, to higher price of coal and of other materials.

Prisons (£890), due to high price of provisions, fuel, etc.

Charitable Institutions (£4,923), due to high price of provisions, fuel, bedding, clothing, and other materials.

Miscellaneous Services (£3,837), chiefly due to payment of Colonial allowance to officers of Maltese Corps on service with the British Expeditionary Forces during the war, maintenance expenses of interned persons of enemy nationality who were domiciled in Malta, and payment of war bonus to certain public servants, etc.

Water Works and Electric Lighting Department (£6,245), due to high price of coal and materials generally.

Water Works and Electric Lighting Extraordinary (£3,405) due to the purchase of a new generating set for the Electric Lighting Station.

Public Works Annually Recurrent (£5,201), due, chiefly, to expenditure on drainage maintenance hitherto charged to "Public Works Department."

The chief decreases were under :—

Interest and Burthens (£781), due to less interest paid to the Savings Bank on investments, owing to increase in the rate of income tax, and to less interest paid to the Savings Bank on moneys advanced by it to the Monte di Pieta.

Post Office (£3,990), due to the suspension of the mail contract, and to the fact that certain amounts due for International transit rates and expenses of International Bureau were not paid during the year.

Public Works Department (£5,788), due, chiefly, to the transfer of expenditure on drainage maintenance to "Public Works Annually Recurrent."

Public Works Extraordinary (£1,573), due to postponement of certain works.

The assets and liabilities of the Government at the close of 1915–16, as compared with those of 1914–15, are shown in the following table :—

Year.	*Assets.*	*Liabilities.*	*Surplus.*
	£	£	£
1914–15	770,949	707,256	63,693
1915–16	862,988	817,610	45,378
Increase	92,039	110,354	—
Decrease	—	—	18,315

The value of securities forming part of the assets on 31st March, 1916, has been calculated, as to Consols and Annuities at 65 per cent. and as to Colonials at the market price on that date.

Currency in Circulation.

Roughly estimated, the amount of legal currency in circulation on 31st March, 1916, was £1,175,000, of which there were British gold coins to the value of £900,000, British silver £75,000, and Treasury currency notes to the value of £200,000.

On the above date, a certain amount of French gold and silver coins, roughly estimated at £15,000, was also in circulation in these Islands.

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

The total value of the imports of merchandise, including the value of goods entered by parcel post and excluding bullion and goods imported for transhipment, was £3,213,890, as compared with £2,069,817 in 1914–15, showing an increase of £1,144,073.

Imports.

The value of imports during the year was £815,451 above the average for the past three years.

There is still an all round increase in the value of imports, due, in the majority of instances, to increased importations and to the enhanced value of all goods.

The only exceptions are under the headings "yarns" and "wood and timber," which show, respectively, a decrease of £2,655 and £6,897.

Exports.

The value of exports amounted to £558,749, as against £662,412 in 1914–15, showing a decrease of £103,663 in the year under review. Food, drink, and tobacco account for £164,494 of the total, raw materials for £344,496, manufactured articles for £24,706, and miscellaneous exports for the rest.

Shipping.

The nationality of steamers which called at Malta during the years 1914–15 and 1915–16 was as follows :—

Nationality.	Number of Steamers.		Tonnage.	
	1914–15.	1915–16.	1914–15.	1915–16.
British	876	548	2,357,893	1,573,124
Austrian..	186*	—	194,384	—
Dutch	51	26	66,173	30,268
French	133	145	342,025	385,620
German	195	—	518,445	—
Hellenic	43	61	62,613	93,390
Italian	160	212	184,185	209,416
Other Countries.. ..	57	36	99,188	54,656
Total Foreign.. ..	825	480	1,467,013	773,350
Total British and Foreign	1,701	1,028	3,824,906	2,346,474

* Including the subsidized mail steamer whose service was discontinued on the 10th August, 1914.

AGRICULTURE.

The total area of land under cultivation was 41,614 acres, as against 41,617 in the previous year, while the area of uncultivated land was estimated at 4,780 acres, as against 4,809 in 1914–15.

At the end of the year under review, the number of holdings was estimated at 11,095 (the average acreage being 3·7 acres per holding), as against 11,106 in 1914–15. The principal agricultural products were cereals (including wheat), barley, and "mischiato" (a mixture of both), forage, potatoes, cummin seed, and onions. The total area under cereals was 14,157 acres, as compared with 13,816 in the previous year. The increase of 341 acres is due to the fact that a smaller extent of land was under potato cultivation. The total yield in the past years was:—Wheat 27,080 quarters, barley 14,573 quarters, and "mischiato" 5,153 quarters.

The area under beans and other pulse was 2,231 acres, against 2,058 acres in 1914–15, and the total yield was 4,386 quarters, as compared with 4,032 quarters in the previous year. The area planted with tubers was 3,161 acres, as against 3,673 acres in 1914–15, and the total yield was 304,500 cwts., as compared with 578,400 cwts. in 1914–15. The importation of potatoes shows a decrease of 38,146 cwts. The quantity imported during 1915–16 was 64,508 cwts., of which 52,929 cwts. were used as seed, and the rest (11,579 cwts.) consumed locally.

The area planted with onions was 1,219 acres, as against 1,703 acres in 1914–15. The yield amounted to 6,607 tons, as compared with 9,360 tons in the previous year.

Cummin seed was planted on 2,597 acres, against 2,359 acres in 1914–15. The yield amounted to 13,795 cwts., an increase of 1,104 cwts. on the yield of 1914–15, and of 5,4[illegible] on that of 1913–14.

The total quantity of oranges, lemons, and mandarines gathered is estimated at 181,750 dozen, as against 175,000 in 1914–15. Only 507 dozen were exported during the year.

Cotton was grown on 946 acres, as against 1,006 acres, and the total yield was 183,580 lb. (or an average of 194 lb. per acre), against 196,490 lb. (an average of 195 lb. per acre) in 1914–15. The average price per lb. obtained was 7*d*. The quantity exported was 22,778 lb., chiefly to Italy.

11,012 acres were under clover, barley green, vetches, etc., as against 10,894 acres in the previous year. The total yield amounted to 310,415 loads of ten bundles each, as compared with 308,620 loads in 1914–15.

The agricultural year has been marked by the total absence of potato disease (blight).

FISHERIES.

Nine hundred and twenty-six boats are engaged in the fishing industry, and the number of hands employed is estimated at three thousand.

III.—LEGISLATION.

The number of Ordinances passed by the Legislature during the year was 11, the more important being :—

No. V. of 1915.—"An Ordinance to make further provision with respect to paper currency." The object of this Ordinance was to make currency notes for £1 and for 10*s*., issued by His Majesty's Treasury under "The Currency and Bank Notes Act, 1914," or any other currency notes that may be issued by them under the authority of the Imperial Parliament, legal tender in these islands.

No. VIII. of 1915.—"An Ordinance to provide a Colonial Allowance for certain officers belonging to Maltese Corps." This Ordinance empowers the Governor to grant a colonial allowance to officers belonging to Maltese Corps who have joined or may join the British Expeditionary Forces in the present war.

IV.—EDUCATION.

ELEMENTARY EDUCATION.

During the scholastic year, 1st September, 1914, to 31st August, 1915, the number of Government day schools comprised 42 boys' schools (33 in Malta and 9 in Gozo), 42 girls' schools (33 in Malta and 9 in Gozo), and 12 infant schools (11 in Malta and 1 in Gozo). The girls' schools generally included infant divisions.

The average number of scholars on the registers was 22,052 (11,694 boys and 10,358 girls), and the average attendance 18,805 (10,037 boys and 8,708 girls). The percentage of the average attendance to the average number on the registers was 85·3. The figures for the previous year were 20,692, 17,588, and 85·0 respectively.

On the 31st July, 1915, the schools were attended by 19,655 scholars (10,250 boys and 9,405 girls), as against 21,800 in 1914.

The average number of pupils on the registers in the drawing classes was 512, and the average attendance 338. In the modelling and wood-carving classes the figures were 49 and 28, respectively.

3,559 new scholars were admitted during the year, and 5,958 were withdrawn.

The number of night schools was 38 (29 in Malta and 9 in Gozo), with an average enrolment of 1,925 and an average attendance of 1,012. The corresponding figures for the previous year were 2,239 and 1,248.

The local training schools were attended by 190 males and 245 females, as compared with 162 and 200, respectively, in 1914–15.

The total expenditure on elementary education during the financial year 1915–16 was £28,352, as compared with £27,950 in the previous year.

Calculated on the average number of scholars on the registers, the average cost per head was 23*s*. 8*d*., and calculated on the average attendance, 28*s*. 7*d*.

Secondary Education.

The attendance in the Lyceum for the scholastic year 1914–15 was 185. The average percentage of attendance was 94 in the obligatory subjects and 77 in the classes of marine and electrical engineering.

The Boys' Secondary School, Gozo, was attended by 60 pupils, who made an average attendance of 94 per cent., as compared with an attendance of 38 and a percentage of 95 in the previous year.

The Girls' Secondary School, Malta, was attended by 205 pupils, as against 194 in the preceding year; the average percentage of attendance was 87, as compared with 86.

University.

The average number of students attending the University was 173, as compared with 176 in the previous year, and included students in Theology (11), Law (18), Legal Procedure (37), Medicine (20), Literature and Science (71), Pharmacy (5), and Engineering and Architecture (17).

Eighty-one candidates entered for the Matriculation examination held in 1915, of whom 52 were successful.

The cost of the University, including the Botanic Gardens, was £6,019, and the revenue was £1,933; the average cost per student was £20 19*s*. 4*d*., as compared with £22 18*s*. 11*d*. in the previous year.

During the year a new Statute was promulgated and brought into force.

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

Hospitals, Asylums, etc.

In 1915–16, 3,637 patients were admitted into the hospitals of Malta and Gozo, as against 3,407 for the previous year. There were 424 deaths, as compared with 411 in 1914–15. In addition to these, 141,966 persons were attended by the district medical officers at the Government dispensaries or at their own residences, as against 138,078 in the previous year.

There were 764 patients in the Lunatic Asylum on 31st March, 1916. The number of admissions was 148; 51 were discharged as cured, 10 as relieved, 12 not improved, 30 not subjects for the Asylum. The number of deaths was 58.

The number of inmates in the Leper Hospital increased from 109 on 31st March, 1915, to 110 at the end of the year. The number of deaths was 14.

The recipients of relief at the poor houses at Malta and Gozo and the Orphan Asylum were 1,059, as compared with 1,111 in the preceding year.

The number of persons receiving outdoor relief during the year was 4,150, as against 4,031 in the previous year.

The total cost of the charitable institutions in Malta and Gozo (exclusive of works) was £76,840, against £71,917 in 1914–15.

Savings Bank.

The number of depositors in the Savings Bank on 31st March, 1916, was 6,993, and the amount standing to their credit was £567,558, of which £543,465 was invested in British and Colonial securities, in the Monte di Pieta, and in London Banks.

The deposits made during the year amounted to £148,868 and the withdrawals to £100,291, as against £114,761 and £151,946, respectively, in 1914–15.

The revenue derived from interest on invested funds and sale of passbooks was £15,983, whilst the expenses of management and interest to depositors amounted to £10,680, leaving a net profit of £5,303.

In the Gozo Savings Bank there were 704 depositors on the 31st March, 1916, the total amount standing to their credit being £52,041. The deposits made during the year amounted to £5,986, and the withdrawals to £8,292, as compared with £4,281 and £14,533, respectively, in the previous year.

VI.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

Police.

The establishment of the police on 31st March, 1916, was 35 officers and 494 non-commissioned officers and men, and the actual strength was 27 officers and 475 non-commissioned officers and men.

The total cost of the police for the year 1915–16 was £32,639, made up of £27,048 for personal emoluments and £5,591 for other charges.

Prisons.

The total number of prisoners committed, exclusive of debtors, was 4,711, of whom 4,101 were males and 610 females.

The number of persons sentenced to imprisonment with or without hard labour was 1,782, as against 788 in the previous year. The increase is mainly due to contravention of regulations made in consequence of the war. The number of prisoners under detention (not confined in association with prisoners under hard labour or imprisonment) was 2,456, as against 3,591 in 1914–15.

The juvenile offenders were 577, as compared with 583 in 1914–15. The general health of the prisoners was good. Fifty-nine prisoners were admitted to the prison infirmary during the year, and the daily average on the sick-list, including prisoners on medical diet not admitted into the infirmary, was 61·45, as against 62·9 in the previous year. No deaths occurred during the year.

The number of offences against discipline by prisoners was 1,939, as compared with 1,312 in 1914–15.

The prisoners were employed on various kinds of work, *e.g.*, pumping water, stone-breaking, cultivation of prison lands, manufacturing coir mats, cleaning, washing, making and mending clothing and bedding for the prison; and those who knew a trade were employed on tinsmith work, painting, white-washing, masonry, and carpentry.

The total cost of the prisons in the two islands was £6,495.

Criminal and Judicial Statistics.

The number of offences reported to the police was 40,143, as against 35,092 in 1914–15, an increase of 5,051.

The number of offences not dealt with by the Courts was 11,933, or 29 per cent. of the total number reported to the police, while the number of crimes the perpetrators of which were not discovered was 59, or 1·97 per cent. of the total number reported, which was 2,989.

Two hundred and two persons were tried by jury during the year 1915–16, as against 109 in 1914–15. 159 were convicted as against 77 in the preceding year.

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

The civil population on 1st April, 1916 was estimated at 220,968, as against 218,542 on 1st April, 1915.

The total number of births in the last two years was as follows :—

	1914–15.	1915–16.
Males	3,717	3,550
Females	3,236	3,179
Total	6,953	6,729

The birth-rate in the year under review was 30·45 per mille, as compared with 31·81 per mille in the previous year. The average birth-rate for the past twelve years was 35·74 per mille.

The total number of deaths reported was as follows :—

	1914–15.	1915–16.
Males	2,361	2,721
Females	2,208	2,395
Total	4,569	5,116

The death-rate in 1915–16 was 23·15 per mille, as against 20·90 in 1914–15, while the average death-rate for the past decade (1906–16) was 22·34 per mille.

The number of marriages was 1,482, as compared with 1,121 in the previous year.

The general state of health of the two islands during the year was good.

The total number of cases of undulant fever reported from the fleet and garrison was only six. The number of goats and sheep found infected and destroyed during the year was 608 out of a total of 7,613 examined.

Four thousand five hundred and fourteen persons were successfully vaccinated.

The death-rate among children under twelve months was 261·55 per 1,000 births, as against 242·48 in the previous year. The death-rate of children under five years was 96·70 per 1,000 of the population at that age as compared with 89·19 in the previous year.

The highest temperature in the shade was 99·5° at Casal Zurrico on the 31st August, and the lowest 36·5° at Casal Zeitun on the 5th February. The mean temperature for the year was 65·1°, as compared with 63·7° in 1914–15.

The mean temperature for the summer months of June, July, August, and September, was 75·6°. In 1914–15 it was 72·7°. The mean temperature for the winter months of January, February, and March was 55·9°, or 1·5° higher than that of the preceding year.

The total rainfall was 27·23 inches, or 13·79 inches higher than that of 1914–15. Rain fell on 58 days. A cloud-burst of exceptional intensity took place on November 22nd, at which 8·6 inches of rain were registered at Micabiba.

VIII.—POSTAL AND TELEPHONE SERVICES.

The total number of mails received during the year was 7,559, and the number despatched 6,671, as against 4,786 and 3,039, respectively, in 1914–15.

The total number of registered articles received and despatched was 233,896, as against 128,323 in the previous year, an increase of 105,573.

The total number of money orders issued and paid in the Colony was 25,041 (£139,747), and the total number of postal orders issued and paid was 141,797 (£62,894).

The total number of parcels received and despatched was 200,959, as against 83,568 in 1914–15, showing an increase of 117,391. The total number of letters, post cards, and printed matter dealt with during the year was 11,059,911, against 7,988,680 in 1914–15.

The total length of aerial telephone wires belonging to the Melita Telephone Exchange is 785 miles.

IX.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

The gross revenue of the Railway during 1915–16 was £8,688, as against £6,314 in 1914–15; the expenditure, including additions and renewals (£446), was £8,229—a profit of £458 on the year's working. In addition to the above, £98 was expended on the Railway Technical School.

The revenue derived from water supplied, laying house services, and rent of meters was £23,780, as compared with £20,971 in 1914–15. 792,000,000 gallons of water were consumed in 1915–16, as against 693,000,000 gallons in the previous year.

The revenue derived from the electric lighting installation was £21,107, as compared with £18,781 in 1914–15. The capital on 31st March, 1916, was £54,325, and the profit on the last year's working, after deducting interest and depreciation, was £5,074 (or 9·3 per cent.). The total number of units generated (exclusive of central station units) was 1,105,157, as compared with 1,025,157 units generated in 1914–15.

The total number of passports issued during the year was 2,639, as against 981 in the previous year. The number of passports issued for Australia, Canada, and Northern Africa in the past two years is shown below :—

	1914–15.	1915–16.
Australia	215	216
Canada	20	18
Northern Africa	315	541
Total	550	775

I have, &c.,

H. A. BYATT,

Lieutenant-Governor and
Chief Secretary to Government.

His Excellency
The Governor.

COLONIAL REPORTS, &c.

The following recent reports, &c., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, &c.	Year.
861	Gambia	1914
862	Straits Settlements	,,
863	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	,,
864	Ashanti	,,
865	Cyprus	1914–1915
866	Swaziland	,,
867	Somaliland	,,
868	British Honduras	1914
869	British Solomon Islands	1914–1915
870	Tongan Islands Protectorate	,,
871	Barbados	,,
872	Falkland Islands	1914
873	Uganda	1914–1915
874	British Guiana	,,
875	Mauritius	1914
876	Leeward Islands	1914–1915
877	Trinidad and Tobago	,,
878	Nigeria	1914
879	Cayman Islands	1914–1915
880	St. Lucia	,,
881	East Africa Protectorate	,,
882	Imperial Institute	1914
883	Nyasaland	1914–1915
884	Gilbert and Ellice Islands	,,
885	Weihaiwei	1915
886	Zanzibar	,,
887	Fiji	,,
888	Sierra Leone	,,
889	Turks and Caicos Islands	,,
890	Gambia	,,
891	Trinidad and Tobago	,,
892	Hong Kong	,,
893	Ashanti	,,
894	Gold Coast	,,

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, &c.	Subject.
79	Northern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1907–8 and 1908–9.
80	Nyasaland	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
81	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
82	Imperial Institute	Rubber and Gutta-percha.
83	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1910.
84	West Indies	Preservation of Ancient Monuments, &c.
85	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1911.
86	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1912.
87	Ceylon	Mineral Survey.
88	Imperial Institute	Oilseeds, Oils, &c.
89	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1913.
90	St. Vincent	Roads and Land Settlement.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 935.

MALTA.

REPORT FOR 1916-1917.

(For Report for 1914–1915 see No. 895.)

Presented to Parliament by Command of His Majesty.

October, 1917.

LONDON:
PUBLISHED BY HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE.

To be purchased through any Bookseller or directly from
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Sketch Maps will be found in the Report for 1914–1915 : [Cd. 7622–45.]

No. 935.

MALTA.

(For Report for 1914-15 see No. 895.)

THE GOVERNOR TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

The Palace, Valletta,
8th September, 1917.

SIR,

I have the honour to forward, for your information, the accompanying report by the Lieutenant-Governor and Chief Secretary to Government in anticipation of the publication of the Malta Blue Book for the year 1915-16.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient, humble servant,
METHUEN, F.M.,
Governor.

The Right Honourable
Walter H. Long, M.P.,
&c., &c., &c.

Lieutenant-Governor's Office,

Malta, 8th September, 1917.

My Lord,

I have the honour to submit the following report on the annual Blue Book for the year 1916–17 :—

I.—FINANCIAL.

The revenue for the year 1916–17 was £460,165, and the expenditure £462,469 ; there was, therefore, an excess of expenditure over revenue of £2,304. The total amount collected on dutiable articles imported for His Majesty's Naval and Military Services, and subsequently refunded to the Imperial Government in the form drawback, was £38,352. The actual revenue for the year was, therefore, £421,813, and the actual expenditure £424,117.

The net surplus on 31st March, 1917 stood at £43,074, as against £45,378 on the corresponding date of the previous year.

The revenue and expenditure for the three preceding years were as follows :—

Year.	*Revenue.*	*Expenditure.*
1913–14	£423,108	£402,521
1914–15	£410,725	£386,283
1915–16	£463,002	£410,389

Currency in Circulation.

Roughly estimated, the total amount of legal currency in circulation on 31st March, 1917 was the same as last year, viz :—£1,175,000 of which £800,000 was in British gold coins, £75,000 in British silver, and £300,000 in Treasury Currency Notes. It is also estimated that £15,000 in French gold and silver coins was in circulation in these Islands on the same date.

II.—TRADE AND AGRICULTURE.

The total value of the imports of merchandise, including the value of goods entered by Parcel Post and excluding bullion and goods imported for transhipment, was £3,318,412, as compared with £3,213,890 in 1915–16, showing an increase of £104,522.

Imports.

The value of imports during the year was £835,945 above the average for the past three years.

Exports.

The value of exports amounted to £589,552, as against £558,749 in 1915–16, showing an increase of £30,803 in the year under review. Food, drink, and tobacco account for £168,384 of the total, raw materials for £369,402, manufactured articles for £13,265, and miscellaneous exports for the remainder.

AGRICULTURE.

The total area of land under cultivation was 42,687 acres, as against 41,614 in the previous year, while the area of uncultivated land was estimated at 3,979 acres, as against 4,780 in 1915–16.

At the end of the year under review, the number of holdings was estimated at 11,107 (the average acreage being 3·7 acres per holding), as against 11,095 in 1915–16. The principal agricultural products were cereals (including wheat), barley, and "mischiato" (a mixture of both), forage, potatoes, cummin-seed, and onions. The total area under cereals was 18,330 acres, as compared with 14,157 in the previous year, the increase being due to the high prices of wheat, barley, etc. The total yield was:—Wheat, 30,160 quarters; barley, 18,856 quarters; and mischiato, 4,982 quarters.

The area under beans and other pulse was 2,005 acres, against 2,231 acres in 1915–16, and the total yield was 3,430 quarters, as compared with 4,386 quarters in the previous year. The area planted with potatoes was 3,190 acres, as against 3,161 acres in 1915–16, and the total yield was 190,900 cwts., as compared with 304,500 cwts. in 1915–16. The quantity of imported potatoes during 1916–17 was 49,836 cwts., of which 47,386 cwts. were used as seed and the rest consumed locally or re-exported.

The area planted with onions was 1,279 acres, as against 1,219 acres in 1915–16. The yield amounted to 6,054 tons, as compared with 6,607 tons in the previous year.

Cummin seed was planted on 923 acres against 2,597 acres in 1915–16. The yield amounted to 3,725 cwts. as against 13,795 in the previous year.

The total quantity of oranges, lemons, and mandarines gathered, is estimated at 169,500 dozen, as against 181,750 in 1915–16.

There was no exportation of oranges during the year.

Cotton was grown on 817 acres, as against 946 acres, and the total yield was 158,420 lbs. (or an average of 193 lbs. per acre), against 183,580 lbs. (an average of 194 lbs. per acre) in 1915–16. The average price per lb. obtained was 9¼*d*. The quantity exported was 102,434 lbs. as against 22, 778 in the previous year.

10,913 acres were under clover, barley green, vetches, etc., as against 11,012 acres in the previous year. The total yield amounted to 323,114 loads of ten bundles each, as compared with 310,415 loads in 1915–16.

III.—EDUCATION.

ELEMENTARY EDUCATION.

During the scholastic year, 1st September, 1915, to 31st August, 1916, the number of Government Day Schools was 100, viz:—42 boys' schools (33 in Malta, 9 in Gozo), 42 girls' schools (33 in Malta, 9 in Gozo), and 16 infant schools (15 in Malta and 1 in Gozo). The girls' schools generally included infant divisions.

The average number of children on the registers was 20,503 (10,584 boys and 9,919 girls), and the average attendance 17,289 (8,970 boys and 8,319 girls). The percentage of the average attendance to the

average number on the register was 84·3. The figures for the previous year were 22,052, 18,805 and 85·3, respectively.

On the 31st July, 1916, the schools were attended by 18,769 children (9,920 boys and 8,849 girls), as against 19,655 (10,250 boys and 9,405 girls) in the previous year.

The average number of pupils on the registers in the drawing classes was 539, and the average attendance 375. In the modelling and woodcarving classes the figures were 41 and 22, respectively.

The number of admissions during the year under review was 3,908 (1,992 boys and 1,916 girls), while the number of withdrawals was 5,515 (2,575 boys and 2,940 girls).

There were 39 night schools (30 in Malta and 9 in Gozo), with an average enrolment of 1,576 and an average attendance of 747. The corresponding figures for the previous year were 1,925 and 1,012.

The local training schools were attended by 87 males and 192 females, as compared with 190 and 245, respectively in 1915–16.

The total expenditure on elementary education during the financial year 1916–17 was £28,217, as compared with £28,352 in 1915–16.

Calculated on the average number of scholars on the registers, the average cost per head was 27*s.*, and calculated on the average attendance it was 33*s.* 1*d.*

Secondary Education.

The attendance in the Lyceum for the scholastic year 1915–16 was 461. The average percentage of attendance was 93 in the obligatory classes, and 80 in the classes of Marine and Electrical Engineering.

The Secondary School for Boys in Gozo was attended by 56 pupils with an average attendance of 94 per cent., as compared with an attendance of 60 per cent., and a percentage of 94 in the previous year.

The Secondary School for girls in Malta was attended by 238 pupils, as against 205 in the preceding year; the average attendance was 84 per cent. of the average number on the roll, as compared with 87 per cent. in 1914–15.

The total cost of Secondary Education amounted to £4,395.

The average cost per student was £5 11*s.* 9*d.* in the Lyceum, £3 4*s.* 10*d.* in the Secondary School, Gozo, and £1 7*s.* 1*d.* in the Girls' Secondary School, Malta.

University.

The average number of students attending the University was 244, as compared with 173 in the previous year, the average attendance being made up as follows:—in Theology, 19; in Law, 50; in Legal Procedure, 25; in Medicine, 43; in Engineering and Architecture, 11; in Literature, 39; in Science, 51; and in Higher Mathematics 6.

Twenty-eight candidates entered for the Matriculation Examination held in 1916; 8 were successful.

The cost of the University, including the Botanic Gardens, was £6,202, and the revenue £2,118; the average cost per student was £14 19*s.* 6*d.*, as compared with £20 19*s.* 4*d.* in the previous year.

IV.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

Hospitals, Asylums, etc.

The number of patients admitted into the hospitals of Malta and Gozo was 3,997, as against 3,637 in the previous year. In addition to these, 144,761 persons were attended by the district medical officers at the Government Dispensaries or at their own residencies, as against 141,966 in 1915–16.

In the Lunatic Asylum there were 782 patients on 31st March, 1917. The number of admissions in the year under review was 141, while 68 were discharged. The number of deaths was 55.

The number of inmates in the Leper Hospital on 31st March, 1916, was 114, as against 110 at the end of the previous year; while the total number maintained in the Poor Houses of Malta and Gozo and the Orphan Asylum was 1,091, as compared with 1,059 in the preceding year.

Outdoor relief was granted to 3,888 persons, as against 4,150 in 1915–16.

The total cost of the Charitable Institutions in Malta and Gozo (exclusive of works) was £88,535, against £76,840 in 1915–16.

Savings Bank.

The number of depositors in the Savings Bank on 31st March, 1917, was 7,021, and the amount standing to their credit, including deposits on account of the Prize Court, was £684,972, of which £646,148 was invested in British and Colonial securities, in the Monte di Pieta, and in London Banks.

The deposits made during the year amounted to £250,447, and the withdrawals to £143,933, as against £148,868 and £100,291, respectively, in 1915–16.

In the Gozo Savings Bank there were 695 depositors on the 31st March 1917, the total amount standing to their credit being £52,510. The deposits made during the year amounted to £9,029, and the withdrawals to £8,560, as compared with £5,086 and £8,292, respectively, in the previous year.

V.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

Prisons.

The total number of prisoners committed to prison, exclusive of debtors, was 5,658, of whom 4,918 were males, and 740 females, as against 4,711, of whom 4,101 were males and 610 were females, in 1915–16.

The juvenile offenders were 750, as compared with 577 in 1915–16.

The number of persons sentenced to imprisonment with or without hard labour was 2,132, as against 1,782 in the previous year. The number of prisoners under detention was 2,604, as against 2,456 in 1915–16.

The general health of the prisoners was good.

Criminal and Judicial Statistics.

The number of offences reported to the Police was 32,923, as against 40,143 in 1915–16, a decrease of 7,220.

The number of offences dealt with by the Courts of Judicial Police in Malta and Gozo was 27,184, as shown below :—

	Malta.	Gozo.	Total.
Crimes	1,462	83	1,545
Contraventions ..	23,232	2,407	25,639
Total	24,694	2,490	27,184

The number of offences not dealt with by the Courts was 5,739, or 11·35 per cent. of the total number reported to the Police, while the number of crimes the perpetrators of which were not discovered was 178, or 6·14 per cent. of the total number reported, which was 2,899.

1,164 cases were instituted in the Civil Court, First Hall, as against 1,130 in the previous year, of which 584 were for the determination of a point of fact or law (unliquidated claims), and the rest for the recovery of specified sums of money amounting in the aggregate to £30,108.

In the Commercial Court 555 cases were introduced as compared with 496 in 1915–16, of which 180 cases were for the determination of a point of fact or law (unliquidated claims), and the rest for the recovery of stated sums of money amounting in the aggregate to £28,949.

VI.—VITAL STATISTICS.

The civil population on 1st April, 1917, was estimated at 223,741, as against 220,968 on the 1st April, 1916.

The total number of births in the last two years was as follows :—

	1915–16.	1916–17.
Males	3,550	3,552
Females	3,179	3,158
Total	6,729	6,710

The birth rate in the year under review was 29·99 per mille, as compared with 30·45 per mille in the previous year. The average birth rate for the past 10 years was 34·22 per mille.

The number of deaths was as follows :—

	1915–16.	1916–17.
Males	2,721	2,894
Females	2,395	2,400
Total	5,116	5,294

The death rate in 1916–17 was 22·35 per mille, as against 23·15 in 1915–16, while the average death rate for the past decade was 22·81 per mille.

The death rate among children under 12 months was 253·80 per 1,000 births, as against 261·55 in the previous year. The death rate of children under 5 years was 105·80 per 1,000 of the population at that age, as compared with 96·70 in the previous year. There were 1,724 marriages as compared with 1,482 in the previous twelve months.

The general state of health of the two Islands was on the whole satisfactory.

The number of goats and sheep found infected with undulant fever and destroyed was 539, out of a total of 7,841 that were examined.

4,187 persons were successfully vaccinated.

VII.—POSTAL AND TELEPHONE SERVICES.

The total number of mails received during the year was 8,890, and the number despatched 4,215, as against 7,559 and 6,671, respectively, in 1915–16.

The total number of registered articles received and despatched was 232,407, as against 233,896 in the previous year.

The total number of Money Orders issued and paid in the Colony was 25,569 (£156,127), and the total number of Postal Orders issued and paid was 137,958 (£49,673).

The total number of parcels received and despatched was 101,559, as against 200,959 in 1915–16 showing a decrease of 99,400. The total number of letters, post cards, and printed matter dealt with during the year was 8,127,648, as against 11,059,911 in 1915–16.

The total length of aerial telephone wires belonging to the Melita Telephone Exchange is 785 miles.

VIII.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

The gross revenue of the Railway during 1916–17 was £8,712, as against £8,688 in 1915–16. The expenditure including additions and renewals (£815), was £8,881: in addition to which £128 was expended on the Railway Technical School.

The revenue derived from water supplied, introduction of house services, and rent of meters was £26,978, as compared with £23,780 in 1915–16. 857,000,000 gallons of water were consumed in 1916–17, as against 792,000,000 in the previous year.

The revenue derived from the electric lighting installation was £21,499 as compared with £21,107 in 1915–16. The capital on 31st March, 1917, was £54,120 and the profit on the year's working after deducting interest and depreciation was £3,357, or 6·2 per cent.

The total number of units generated (exclusive of Central Station units) was 1,071,334, as compared with 1,105,067 units generated in 1915–16.

The exploration of neolithic remains at Casal Tarxien commenced in 1915 was continued in 1916–17, and the work is now nearing completion. Typical sherds and flints were also obtained from other neolithic remains in the Island: graves of the Roman and Punic periods have also been excavated and important archaeological information has been obtained from them.

An incident of importance for the Colony has been the establishment in Malta of a large Military Hospital base, and it is fitting to remark that the organization of the numerous hospitals was facilitated by the ready manner in which buildings, both public and private, were placed at the disposal of the Military Authorities for this purpose. The presence of these establishments has, as might be expected, given opportunities for occupation to persons who might otherwise have been unemployed.

Malta has shared with the other parts of the Empire in the disabilities arising from the increase in the cost of the necessaries of life. The proportion of the industrial and labouring class to the total population is high, and labour has not in consequence, hitherto commanded a high price, so that any advance in the cost of living, however slight, is acutely felt. Various measures have been taken by Government, both to control prices of necessary commodities, and to maintain supplies, and the establishment of a Food Control Board and a Supplies and Prices Board, is proving effective in securing both these objects. No difficulty has been experienced in enforcing such restrictions as the Food Control Board have recommended, nor such as Military requirements from time to time have rendered necessary, and administration has been made easy by the cheerful readiness with which any orders issued have been obeyed, and by the loyal support given to Government by all classes of the population.

I have, &c.,

W. C. F. ROBERTSON,

Lieutenant-Governor and

Chief Secretary to Government.

His Excellency

The Governor.

COLONIAL REPORTS, &c.

The following recent reports, &c., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title-page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, &c.	Year
901	Swaziland	1915–1916
902	Somaliland	,,
903	Cyprus	,,
904	Ceylon	1915
905	Straits Settlements	,,
906	Grenada	1915–1916
907	Falkland Islands	1915
908	Bermuda	,,
909	Jamaica	1915–1916
910	British Guiana	1915
911	Basutoland	1915–1916
912	Barbados	,,
913	Leeward Islands	,,
914	Uganda	,,
915	British Honduras	1915
916	Mauritius	,,
917	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	,,
918	St. Lucia	1915–1916
919	Nyasaland	,,
920	Nigeria	1915
921	East Africa Protectorate	1915–1916
922	Gilbert and Ellice Islands	,,
923	Hong Kong	1916
924	Weihaiwei	,,
925	Zanzibar	,,
926	Fiji	,,
927	Turks and Caicos Islands	,,
928	Cayman Islands	1915–1916
929	Seychelles	1916
930	Trinidad and Tobago	,,
931	Gibraltar	,,
932	Bahamas	1916–1917
933	St. Helena	1916
934	Ceylon	,,

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, &c.	Subject.
79	Northern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1907–8 and 1908–9.
80	Nyasaland	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
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86	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1912.
87	Ceylon	Mineral Survey.
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90	St. Vincent	Roads and Land Settlement.

Printed under the authority of His Majesty's Stationery Office
By Barclay & Fry, Ltd., Southwark, London, S.E. 1.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 975.

MALTA.

REPORT FOR 1917-18.

(For Report for 1916–17 see No. 935.)

Presented to Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
November, 1918.

LONDON:
PUBLISHED BY HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE.

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1918.

[Cd. 8973-24.] *Price* 1*d. Net.*

No. 975.

MALTA.

(For Report for 1916–17 see No. 935.)

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK FOR 1917–1918.*

Lieutenant-Governor's Office,
Malta, 23rd September, 1918.

My Lord,

I have the honour to submit the following report on the Annual Blue Book for the year 1917–18 :—

I.—FINANCIAL.

The revenue for the year 1917–18 was £470,976, and the expenditure £484,726 ; there was, therefore, an excess of expenditure over revenue of £13,750. These figures include an amount of £35,479, representing the duty collected on articles imported for His Majesty's Naval and Military Forces which was subsequently refunded in the form of drawback. The actual revenue for the year was, therefore, £435,497, and the actual expenditure £449,247.

The excess of assets over liabilities on the 31st March, 1918, was £29,324, as against £43,074 on the corresponding date of the previous year.

Below are shown for purposes of comparison the gross revenue and expenditure for the last three years :—

Year.	*Revenue.*	*Expenditure.*	*Surplus or deficit of Revenue over Expenditure.*
1915–16 ..	£463,002	£410,389	+£52,613
1916–17 ..	£460,165	£462,469	— £2,304
1917–18 ..	£470,976	£484,726	—£13,750

Revenue.

The revenue collected in 1917–18 was £10,811 more than that of 1916–17. The only important decreases were under Customs (£5,587) and Harbour and Quarantine Dues (£1,333), the decrease in both cases being attributable to the disturbance of normal conditions caused by the War ; while there were appreciable increases under other heads.

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* Sketch maps will be found in the Report for 1914–1915: [Cd. 7622-45].

(C510) Wt.11/42. 1000/90. 11.18. B.&F.Ltd. G 11/2

EXPENDITURE.

The expenditure was made up as follows :—

Establishments :		
Personal Emoluments	£164,258	
Other Charges	194,106	
		£358,364
Interest and burthens	£24,873	
Pensions	25,735	
Miscellaneous Services	25,788	
Water and Electric Lighting Works	44	
Public Works	49,922	£126,362
Total		£484,726

CURRENCY IN CIRCULATION.

The amount of British Treasury paper currency notes in circulation on 31st March, 1918, was roughly estimated at £550,000.

The amount of British gold, silver, and bronze coins in circulation cannot be ascertained.

II.—TRADE AND AGRICULTURE.

The total value of the imports of merchandise, including the value of goods entered by parcel post and excluding bullion and goods imported for transhipment, was £2,874,420, as compared with £3,318,412 in 1916–17, showing a decrease of £443,992.

IMPORTS.

The value of imports during the year was £7,047 above the average for the past three years.

EXPORTS.

The value of exports amounted to £610,212, as against £589,552 in 1916–17, an increase of £20,660 for the year under review. Food, drink, and tobacco account for £217,458 of the total, raw materials for £343,978, manufactured articles for £35,494, and miscellaneous exports for the remainder.

AGRICULTURE.

The total area of land under cultivation was 42,849 acres, as against 42,687 in the previous year, while the area of uncultivated land was estimated at 3,842 acres, as against 3,979 in 1916–17.

At the end of the year under review, the number of holdings was estimated at 11,097 as against 11,107 in 1916–17. The principal agricultural products were cereals (including wheat), barley, and "mischiato" (a mixture of both), forage, potatoes, and onions. The total area under cereals was 20,107 acres, as compared with 18,330 in the previous year, the increase of 1,777 being due to the high price and scarcity of wheat. The total yield was :—Wheat, 39,441 quarters ; barley, 18,708 quarters ; and "mischiato," 5,230 quarters.

The area under beans and pulse was 2,742 acres, against 2,005 acres in 1916–17, and the total yield was 4,410 quarters, as compared with 3,430 quarters in the previous year. The area planted with potatoes was 2,718 acres, as against 3,190 acres in 1916–17, and the total yield

was 290,800 cwts., as compared with 190,900 cwts. in 1916–17. The quantity of imported potatoes during 1917–18 was 39,846 cwts., of which 32,310 cwts. only were used as seed, the remainder being unserviceable through damage in transit.

The area planted with onions was 819 acres, as against 1,279 acres in 1916–17. The yield amounted to 2,958 tons, as compared with 6,054 in the previous year.

Restrictions were imposed on the cultivation of cummin, in order to encourage the cultivation of food-stuffs, and the yield of this product was insignificant.

The total quantity of oranges, lemons, and mandarines gathered is estimated at 171,560 dozen, as against 169,500 in 1916–17. There was no exportation of oranges during the year under review.

Cotton was grown on 744 acres, and the total yield was 128,395 lbs. (an average of 172·57 lbs. per acre). In 1916–17, the area under cotton was 817 acres, the production being 158,420 lbs. (an average of 193 lbs. per acre). The average price per lb. obtained was 11½d. In order to encourage the production of cotton, export of a limited quantity (82,416 lbs.) was allowed, the high price obtainable affording a large profit. It is probable that all locally grown cotton will, for some time to come, be required for cloth manufacture in the Island. Malta Sail Cloth is now much in demand and commands a high price. The development of the industry will, it is hoped, be followed by increased production of cotton.

10,761 acres were under clover, barley green, vetches, etc., as against 10,913 acres in the previous year. The total yield amounted to 308,596 loads of ten bundles each, as compared with 323,114 loads in 1916–17.

Fisheries.

Nine hundred and nineteen boats were engaged in the fishing industry, and the number of hands employed is estimated at 2,910.

The Regulations governing fishing during war time have placed restrictions on the areas and times in which fishermen can carry on their calling, and the industry has, naturally, been seriously affected in consequence. The average catch for the year 1917–18 may be taken as about 450 lbs. per diem. The industry is one which, it is thought, could be largely extended and improved, when normal conditions are restored, by the introduction of more modern methods and appliances. Direct assistance by Government would appear, however, to be essential, as the fishing class are generally conservative and attached to their primitive habits and systems.

III.—EDUCATION.

Elementary Education.

During the scholastic year, 1st September, 1916, to 31st August, 1917, the number of Government Day Schools was 100, viz. :—42 boys' schools (33 in Malta, 9 in Gozo), 42 girls' schools (33 in Malta, 9 in Gozo), and 16 infant schools (15 in Malta and 1 in Gozo). The girls' schools generally included infant divisions.

The average number of children on the registers was 20,910 (10,923 boys and 9,987 girls), and the average attendance 16,988 (8,926 boys

and 8,062 girls). The percentage of the average attendance to the average number on the registers was 81·2. The figures for the previous year were 20,503, 17,289 and 84·3, respectively.

The attendance is the lowest on record since 1900–1, and was mainly due to epidemics of children's diseases.

On the 31st July, 1917, the schools were attended by 18,502 children (9,759 boys and 8,743 girls), as against 18,769 (9,920 boys and 8,849 girls) in the previous year.

The average number of pupils on the registers in the drawing classes was 512, and the average attendance 374. In the modelling and woodcarving classes the figures were 41 and 25 respectively.

The number of admissions during the year under review was 4,395 (2,120 boys and 2,275 girls), while the number of withdrawals was 5,758 (2,680 boys and 3,078 girls).

Continuation classes, intended to assist boys preparing for secondary education, engineering (marine and electrical) courses, and dockyard examinations were held in fifteen centres and were attended by 321 students; these classes were first started in 1916–17, but the standard was considerably raised during 1917–18.

There were 39 night schools (30 in Malta and 9 in Gozo), with an average enrolment of 1,794 and an average attendance of 886. The corresponding figures for the previous year were 1,576 and 747.

The local training courses were attended by 81 males and 171 females, as compared with 87 and 192, respectively in 1916–17.

The total expenditure on elementary education during the financial year 1917–18 was £30,787, as compared with £28,217 in 1916–17.

Calculated on the average number of scholars on the registers, the average cost per head was 26*s.* 9*d.*, and calculated on the average attendance it was 33*s.* 10*d.*

Secondary Education.

The attendance in the Lyceum for the scholastic year 1916–17 was 509. The average percentage of attendance was 92 in the obligatory classes, and 78 in the classes of Marine and Electrical Engineering.

The Secondary School for Boys in Gozo was attended by 53 pupils with an average attendance of 90 per cent., as compared with an attendance of 56 pupils, and a percentage average attendance of 94 in the previous year.

The Secondary School for Girls in Malta was attended by 212 pupils, as against 238 in the preceding year; the average attendance was 78 per cent. of the average number on the roll as compared with 84 per cent. in 1915–16.

The total cost of Secondary Education amounted to £4,541, while the total revenue was £1,604.

The average cost per student was £4 15*s.* 10*d.* in the Lyceum, £3 8*s.* 10*d.* in the Secondary School, Gozo, and £1 9*s.* 9*d.* in the Girls' Secondary School, Malta.

University.

The average number of students attending the University was 184, as compared with 244 in the previous year.

The cost of the University, including the Botanic Gardens, was £6,148, and the revenue, £1,643: the average cost per student was £22 6*s.* 9*d.*, as compared with £14 19*s.* 6*d.* in the previous year.

The collections in the Museum of Natural History which forms part of the University have been considerably enlarged as a result of paleontological investigations carried out during the year. Discoveries of interest were made, which are described in the report on the excavations carried out during the year which is recorded in the transactions of the British Association.

IV.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

Hospitals, Asylums, etc.

The number of patients admitted into the Hospitals of Malta and Gozo was 3,610, as against 3,997 in the previous year. In addition to these, 148,116 persons were attended by the district medical officers at the Government Dispensaries or at their own residences, as against 144,761 in 1916–17.

In the Lunatic Asylum there were 797 patients on 31st March, 1918. The number of admissions during the year was 171, while 88 were discharged. The number of deaths was 68.

The number of inmates in the Leper Hospital on 31st March, 1918, was 98, as against 114 at the end of the previous year; while the total number of inmates maintained in the Poor House of Malta and Gozo and the Orphan Asylum was 1,179, as compared with 1,091 in the preceding year.

Outdoor relief was granted to 4,292 persons, as against 3,888 in 1916–17.

The total cost of the Charitable Institutions in Malta and Gozo (exclusive of works) was £99,962, an amount which exceeded that expended in the previous year by £11,427.

Savings Bank.

The number of depositors in the Savings Bank on 31st March, 1918, was 7,330, and the amount standing to their credit, including deposits on account of the Prize Court, was £672,957, of which £629,498 was invested in British and Colonial securities, in the Monte di Pieta, and in London Banks.

The deposits made during the year amounted to £220,856, and the withdrawals to £243,476, as against £250,447 and £143,933, respectively, in 1916–17.

The revenue derived from interest on invested funds, unappropriated interest, and sale of passbooks was £21,122, whilst the expenses of management and interest to depositors amounted to £11,823, leaving a net profit of £9,299.

In the Gozo Savings Bank there were 712 depositors on the 31st March, 1918, the total amount standing to their credit being £53,297. The deposits made during the year amounted to £8,417, and the withdrawals to £8,612, as compared with £9,029 and £8,560, respectively, in the previous year.

V.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

POLICE.

The total cost of the Police for the year was £34,738, made up of £27,799 for "Personal Emoluments," and £6,939 for "Other Charges."

PRISONS.

The total number of prisoners committed to prison, exclusive of debtors, was 5,584, of whom 4,619 were males and 965 females, as against 5,658, of whom 4,918 were males and 740 were females, in 1916–17.

The juvenile offenders were 673, as compared with 750 in 1916–17.

The number of persons sentenced to imprisonment with or without hard labour was 2,516, as against 2,132 in the previous year. The number of prisoners under detention was 2,066, as against 2,604 in 1916–17.

The daily average population of the prison was 378·70, as against 326·21 in the previous year.

The general health of the prisoners was good.

The prisoners were employed on cleaning, washing, making, mending clothing and bedding for the prison, pumping water, stone-breaking, cultivation of prison lands, and manufacturing brooms, coir, and rush mats; and those who knew a trade were employed on tinsmith work, painting, whitewashing, masonry, carpentry, book-binding, or shoe-making.

The total cost of the prisons in the two islands was £9,925 15*s.* 7*d.*, as against £6,838 in 1916–17.

CRIMINAL AND JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

The number of offences reported to the Police was 40,662, an increase of 7,739 as compared with 1916–17.

They may be classified as follows:—

Homicide	2
Other offences against the person	5,363
Offences against the good order of families	114
Offences against property	5,319
Other offences	29,864
Total	40,662

The number of offences dealt with by the Courts of Judicial Police in Malta and Gozo was 27,354, as shown below:—

	Malta.	Gozo.	Total.
Crimes	1,601	40	1,641
Contraventions	23,733	1,980	25,713
Total ..	25,334	2,020	27,354

The number of offences not dealt with by the Courts was 13,308, or 32·73 per cent. of the total number reported to the Police, while the number of crimes the perpetrators of which were not discovered was 128, or 2·64 per cent. of the total number reported, which was 4,834.

In connection with the offences dealt with by the Courts of Judicial Police, 27,354 persons were summoned before the Magistrates, as compared with 27,184 in the previous year, an increase of 1,170.

Two hundred and five persons were tried by jury during the year 1917–18, as against 230 in 1916–17.

The results were as follows :—

	1916–17.	1917–18.
Convicted	187	163
Acquitted	43	42
	230	205

VI.—VITAL STATISTICS.

The civil population on the 1st April, 1918, was estimated at 224,323, an increase of 582, as compared with the estimated population on the 1st April, 1917.

The total number of births in the last two years was as follows :—

	1916–17.	1917–18.
Males	3,552	3,490
Females	3,158	3,198
Total	6,710	6,688

The birth-rate for the year was 29.81 per mille, as compared with 29·99 per mille in the previous year. The average birth-rate for the past 10 years was 32·50 per mille.

The number of deaths was as follows :—

	1916–17.	1917–18.
Males	2,894	2,981
Females	2,400	2,897
Total	5,294	5,878

The death-rate in 1917–18 was 26·22 per mille, as against 22·35 in 1916–17, while the average death-rate for the past decade was 22·80 per mille.

The death-rate among children under 12 months was 293·51 per 1,000 births, as against 253·80 in the previous year. The death-rate of children under 5 years was 128·35 per 1,000 of the population at that age, as compared with 105·80 in the previous year. There were 1,496 marriages, as compared with 1,724 in the previous twelve months.

There were small outbreaks of enteric and measles, and a considerable epidemic of whooping cough ; there was also an increase in the number of cases of pulmonary tuberculosis. Apart from these, however, the general state of health of the two islands may be regarded as satisfactory.

The number of goats and sheep found infected with undulant fever and destroyed was 287, out of a total of 5,944 that were examined.

4,011 persons were successfully vaccinated.

CLIMATE.

The highest temperature in the shade was 94·9 at Casal Lia, on the 24th June, and the lowest 37·8 at Casal Lia, on the 19th February. The mean temperature for the year was 64·8, as compared with 66·3 in 1916–17.

The mean temperature for the summer months of June, July, August, and September was 76·6. In 1916–17 it was 76·7. The mean temperature for the winter months of January, February, and March, was 54·0, or 1·5 lower than that of the preceding year.

The total rainfall was 17·71 or 1·98 inches more than that of 1916–17.

VII.—POSTAL AND TELEPHONE SERVICES.

The total number of mails received during the year was 9,427, and the number despatched, 4,305, against 8,890 and 4,215, respectively, in 1916–17.

The total number of registered articles received and despatched was 212,259, as against 232,407 in the previous year, a decrease of 20,148.

The total number of money orders issued and paid in the Colony was 27,464 (£181,900), and the total number of postal orders issued and paid was 122,227 (£46,302).

The total number of parcels received and despatched was 70,784, as against 101,559 in 1916–17, showing a decrease of 30,775. The total number of letters, post-cards, and printed matter dealt with during the year was 7,738,246, against 8,127,648 in 1916–17.

The total length of aerial telephone wires belonging to the Melita Telephone Exchange is 785 miles.

VIII.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

The gross revenue of the Railway during 1917–18 was £10,439, as against £8,712 in 1916–17. The expenditure, including additions and renewals (£461), was £10,269 ; in addition to which £152 was expended on the Railway Technical School.

The revenue derived from water supplied, introduction of house services, and rent of meters, was £27,030, as compared with £26,978, in 1916–17. 826,000,000 gallons of water were consumed in 1917–18, as against 857,000,000 in the previous year.

The revenue derived from the electric lighting installation was £21,726, as compared with £21,499 in 1916–17. The capital on 31st March, 1918, was £49,300, and the profit on the year's working, after deducting interest and depreciation, was £1,283, or 2.6 per cent.

The total number of units generated (exclusive of central station units) was 1,118,745, as compared with 1,071, 334 units generated in 1916–17.

Some progress has been made with the archeological investigations, and an additional temple of the neolithic period has been uncovered at Tarxien. Discoveries of great interest and importance have also been made at a cave known as Ghar Dalam, near Marsascirocco Harbour, where remains, human and animal, of the period of the Neanderthal man, have been found. The importance of this cave as a repository of Pleistocene history has been recognised. Lack of funds has hitherto prevented excavation on any but a small scale.

Since the last Annual Report was presented, it has been found possible to dispense with many of the Hospitals which had been opened to meet Military requirements during the earlier stages of the War. The presence of these Hospitals was, naturally, beneficial to trade. Their withdrawal, however, set free a considerable number of workmen and labourers who have since been employed in various branches of the Services. Conscription has not, as yet, been introduced in Malta, and so many men of military age are now employed on service directly connected with the War, that it is at least doubtful whether such a measure would result in any useful accession of strength to His Majesty's Forces. Apart from the large number of Maltese who are embodied in various British Naval and Military Units, there are the two Battalions of Militia and the Regiment of Artillery, which form part of the Island Garrison, the Labour Battalions serving on the Salonica front, and a Motor Drivers Corps, the men of which are drafted, when trained, to Egypt or Salonica as required. The Royal Air Force employs a large force of workmen and labourers, and, finally, there is the Admiralty Dockyard, which maintains a staff of mechanical workmen and labourers more than six times as large as that employed in times of peace, while the demands of Naval Establishments, Patrols, etc., are ever increasing. A large body of men are constantly employed as coal heavers, stevedores, etc.—work that is now essentially War Service. When it is considered that the total number of men engaged in the services mentioned above exceeds 26,000, and the total number of men between the ages of 18 and 41, as shown in the last census returns, amounts to only 37,833, the part played by Malta in this War cannot be considered insignificant.

With the reduced facilities for importation, the work of the Control Board, with its subsidiary boards, in the maintenance and distribution of supplies has been gradually extended to all essentials, though food and fuel have naturally demanded most attention. Prices and distribution of all foodstuffs, whether imported or locally produced, are controlled at all stages. Small Committees in each district, consisting usually of the Parish Priest, the District Medical Officer, and the Government Schoolmaster, and one or more private citizens, report as to stocks and consumption of every commodity of importance, and make recommendations as to allotment to individual retailers in accordance with the requirements of their District. A Flour Board directs allotment of wheat to millers, the issue of flour from the mills to bakers, the amount issued being calculated on information supplied by the District Committees as to the number of persons supplied with bread by each baker. Difficulties with regard to fuel

have been met by the introduction of economical stoves designed to burn sawdust, while a cheap food kitchen is attached to each district.

Although the measures taken have been so far successful that food has been obtainable, and excessive profits prevented, distress has been general owing to increase of prices. Wages, in peace time, were not calculated on a high scale of living, and there has been little increase in the rate of wages since the outbreak of war. The patience with which privation has been borne and the readiness with which restrictions imposed by Government have been accepted, is all the more remarkable.

The financial position of the Government throughout the year has not been free from difficulty, as the advance in prices of all commodities has added to the cost of maintaining the principal public works—Water Supply, Drainage, Electric Light, Railways, etc.—and the Charitable Institutions, the demands on which became increasingly insistent, while at the same time the revenue was largely affected by the restrictions on importation. Measures for imposing additional taxation were introduced which will, it is hoped, tend to restore the balance of revenue and expenditure.

I have, &c.,

W. C. F. ROBERTSON,
Lieutenant-Governor and
Chief Secretary to Government.

His Excellency
The Governor.

COLONIAL REPORTS, &c.

The following recent reports, &c., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page:—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, &c.	Year.
943	Jamaica	1916–1917
944	Somaliland	„
945	Swaziland	„
946	Nigeria	1916
947	Basutoland	1916–1917
948	Gold Coast	1916
949	Ashanti	„
950	Bechuanaland Protectorate	1916–1917
951	Barbados	„
952	Leeward Islands	„
953	St. Vincent	„
954	Uganda	„
955	Nyasaland	„
956	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	1916
957	British Honduras	„
958	Gilbert and Ellice Islands	1916–1917
959	Cayman Islands	„
960	Bermuda	1916
961	Mauritius	„
962	Ashanti	1917
963	Falkland Islands	„
964	Seychelles	„
965	Weihaiwei	„
966	Fiji	„
967	Solomon Islands	1917–1918
968	Grenada	„
969	Turks and Caicos Islands	1917
970	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	„
971	Ceylon	„
972	Hong Kong	„
973	Zanzibar	„
974	St. Helena	„

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, &c.	Subject.
79	Northern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1907–8 and 1908–9.
80	Nyasaland	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
81	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
82	Imperial Institute	Rubber and Gutta-percha.
83	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1910.
84	West Indies	Preservation of Ancient Monuments, &c.
85	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1911.
86	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1912.
87	Ceylon	Mineral Survey.
88	Imperial Institute	Oilseeds, Oils, &c.
89	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1913.
90	St. Vincent	Roads and Land Settlement.

Printed under the authority of His Majesty's Stationery Office
By Barclay & Fry, Ltd., Southwark, London, S.E. 1.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 1004.

MALTA.

REPORT FOR 1918-19.

(For Report for 1917–18 see No. 975.)

Presented to Parliament by Command of His Majesty.

October, 1919

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No. 1004.

MALTA.

(For Report for 1917–18 see No. 975.)

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK FOR 1918–1919.*

Lieutenant-Governor's Office,
Malta, 27th September, 1919.

My Lord,

I have the honour to submit the following report on the Annual Blue Book for the year 1918–19 :—

I.—FINANCIAL.

The balance of assets over liabilities at the 31st March, 1918, was £29,324. The revenue for the year 1918–19 amounted to £615,225 and the expenditure to £601,033, leaving a balance in favour of revenue of £14,192. The excess, therefore, of assets over liabilities at the 31st March, 1919, was £43,516.

The figures for revenue and expenditure included an amount of £3,890, representing the duty collected on articles imported for His Majesty's Naval and Military Forces which was subsequently refunded in the form of drawback.

The gross revenue and expenditure for the last three years are as follows :—

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Surplus or deficit of Revenue over Expenditure.
1916–17 ..	£460,165	£462,469	— £2,304
1917–18 ..	£470,976	£484,726	—£13,750
1918–19 ..	£615,225	£601,033	+£14,192

Revenue.

The revenue in 1918–19 exceeded that of 1917–18 by £144,249.

The principal increases occur under the following heads :—Customs (£12,249), Licences, Court Fines, etc. (£16,571), Electric Lighting (£6,573), Miscellaneous Receipts (£98,822).

* Sketch maps will be found in the Report for 1914–1915 [Cd. 7622–45].

EXPENDITURE.

The expenditure was made up as follows :—

Establishments :		
Personal Emoluments	£169,504	
Other Charges	224,909	
		£394,413
Interest and burthens	26,714	
Pensions	25,717	
Miscellaneous Services	96,463	
Water and Electric Lighting Works	333	
Public Works	57,393	£206,620
Total		£601,033

As compared with that of 1917–18, the total expenditure for 1918–19 shows an increase of £116,307.

The principal increases were under the following heads :—Railway (£9,056), Charitable Institutions (£12,700), Miscellaneous Services (£70,674), Waterworks and Electric Lighting Department (£32,581), Customs (£23,820).

CURRENCY IN CIRCULATION.

The amount of British Treasury paper currency notes in circulation on 31st March, 1919, was roughly estimated at £750,000.

The amount of British gold, silver, and bronze coins in circulation cannot be ascertained.

II.—TRADE AND AGRICULTURE.

The total value of the imports of merchandise, including the value of goods entered by parcel post and excluding bullion and goods imported for transhipment, was £2,863,920, as compared with £2,874,420 in 1917–18, showing a decrease of £10,500.

IMPORTS.

The value of imports during the year was £271,654 below the average for the past three years.

EXPORTS.

The value of exports amounted to £779,925 as against £610,212 in 1917–18, an increase of £169,713 for the year under review. Food, drink, and tobacco account for £279,752 of the total, raw materials for £367,611, manufactured articles for £106,997, and miscellaneous exports for the remainder.

SHIPPING.

The number of British steamers which called at Malta during the year 1918–19 was 225 (tonnage 503,205), foreign steamers, 132 (tonnage 184,407).

AGRICULTURE.

The total area of land under cultivation was 43,117 acres, as against 42,849 in the previous year, while the area of uncultivated land was estimated at 3,611 acres, as against 3,842 in 1917–18.

(C.599) Wt.1/155. 1000 & 90. 10.19 B.&F.,Ltd. G.11/14.

At the end of the year under review the number of holdings was estimated at 11,103, as against 11,097 in 1917–18. The principal agricultural products were wheat, barley, and " mischiato " (a mixture of both), forage, potatoes, onions, beans, and pulse. The total area under cereals was 18,912 acres, as compared with 20,107 in the previous year, the decrease being due to the extension of land under onions and potatoes. The total yield was :—Wheat, 34,905 quarters ; barley, 18,755 quarters ; and " mischiato," 4,980 quarters.

The area under beans and pulse was 2,628 acres, against 2,742 acres in 1917–18, and the total yield was 5,064 quarters, as compared with 4,410 quarters in the previous year. The area planted with potatoes was 3, 787 acres, as against 2,718 acres in 1917–18, and the total yield was 431,440 cwts., as compared with 290,800 cwts. in 1917–18. The quantity of imported potatoes which were planted during 1918–19 was 32,734 cwts.

The area planted with onions was 1,192 acres, an increase of 373 acres as compared with the previous year. The yield amounted to 3,560 tons, or 602 tons more than in 1917–18.

The restrictions which had been imposed on the cultivation of cummin were removed. 115 acres were sown, as against 71 acres in the previous year. The fact that there was no great demand for this article accounts for the low increase over the figure of last year. The total quantity of oranges, lemons, and mandarines gathered is estimated at 165,480 dozen, as compared with 171,560 in 1917–18. As in the previous year, the exportation of oranges was not allowed during the year under review.

Cotton was grown on 677 acres and the total yield was 125,936 lbs., an average of 186·02 lbs. per acre. In 1917–18 the area under cotton was 744 acres, the production being 128,395 lbs., an average of 172·57 lbs. per acre. The average price per lb. obtained was 1*s*. No raw cotton was allowed to be exported, this measure being adopted owing to restrictions on importation of cotton goods, and also with the object of encouraging local manufacture, particularly of sail cloth.

11,063 acres were under clover, barley green, vetches, etc., as against 10,761 acres in the previous year. The total yield amounted to 227,520 loads of ten bundles each, as compared with 308,596 loads in 1917–18.

Climatic conditions during the winter favoured all crops. An unusual development of insect life became manifest early in the spring, especially of aphides which caused some damage to the vegetable marrow. An extraordinary number of ladybirds appeared soon after, and these destroyed the aphides.

Fisheries.

Nine hundred and forty-nine boats were engaged in the fishing industry, and the number of hands employed is estimated at 3,500. The average catch for the year 1918– was about 600 lbs. per diem.

III.—LEGISLATION.

Sixteen ordinances were passed by the legislature during the year, the more important being :—

No. XIII of 1918.—" An Ordinance for the suppression of the white slave traffic and to amend the existing provisions respecting offences against good morals." This Ordinance was enacted to give effect in Malta to the International Convention for the suppression of the white slave traffic.

No. XIV of 1918.—" An Ordinance to amend the Criminal Laws." The object of this Ordinance was to bring certain provisions of the Criminal Laws into closer conformity with the corresponding provisions of the preceding Ordinance relating to the suppression of the white slave traffic.

No. IV of 1919.—" An Ordinance to amend Ordinance No. XIII of 1914." This Ordinance was framed on the lines of the " Trading with the Enemy (Amendment) Act, 1918 (8 and 9 Geo. V., ch. 31)." Its object was to extend to after the War the operations of the trading with the enemy enactments, in respect of banking business carried on by enemy subjects, or enemy firms or corporations, or firms or corporations controlled by the enemy.

IV.—EDUCATION.

Elementary Education.

During the scholastic year, 1st September, 1917, to 31st August, 1918, the number of Government Day Schools was 102, viz. :—43 boys' schools (34 in Malta, 9 in Gozo), 43 girls' schools (34 in Malta, 9 in Gozo), and 16 infant schools (15 in Malta and 1 in Gozo). The girls' schools generally included infant divisions.

The average number of children on the registers was 20,732 (10,845 boys and 9,887 girls), and the average attendance 16,560 (8,694 boys and 7,866 girls). The percentage of the average attendance to the average number on the registers was 79·8. The figures for the previous year were 20,910, 16,988 and 81·2 respectively.

The attendance is the lowest on record since 1899, and was mainly due to epidemics of children's diseases.

The number of new admissions during the year under review was 4,081 (2,066 boys and 2,015 girls), while the number of withdrawals was 5,194 (2,501 boys and 2,693 girls).

Two school buildings (Valletta and Sliema) were used as Military Hospitals, but schools were held elsewhere, without interruption to the courses; the Sliema School buildings reverted to the Education Department in September, 1918.

Continuation classes intended to assist boys preparing for secondary education, engineering (marine and electrical) courses, and dockyard examinations were held in thirteen centres and were attended by 237 students, with an average attendance of 183.

There were 39 night schools (30 in Malta and 9 in Gozo), with an average enrolment of 1,599 and an average attendance of 756. The corresponding figures for the previous year were 1,794 and 886.

The local training courses were attended by 42 males and 150 females, as compared with 81 and 171, respectively in 1917–18.

The total expenditure on elementary education during the financial year 1918–19 was £34,008, as compared with £30,787 in 1917–18. The increase is attributable to the payment of war bonus.

Calculated on the average number of scholars on the registers, the average annual cost per head was £1 12*s.* 10*d.*, and calculated on the average attendance it was £2 1*s.* 0*d.*

Scholarships, at the rate of two annually, were instituted admitting boys in attendance at the Government Elementary Schools to the Lyceum Technical Classes of Marine and Electrical Engineering.

Secondary Education.

There are three Government Secondary Schools, viz.: the Lyceum, the Gozo Boys' Secondary School, and the Malta Girls' Secondary School.

The attendance in the Lyceum for the scholastic year 1917–18 was 521. The average percentage of attendance was 94 in the obligatory classes, and 70 in the classes of Marine and Electrical Engineering.

The Secondary School for Boys in Gozo was attended by 38 pupils with an average attendance of 88 per cent., as compared with an attendance of 53 pupils and a percentage of average attendance of 90 in the previous year.

The Secondary School for Girls in Malta was attended by 223 pupils, as against 212 in the preceding year; the average attendance was 85 per cent. of the average number on the roll as compared with 78 per cent. in 1916–17.

The average cost per student was £5 1*s.* 9*d.* in the Lyceum, £5 3*s.* 10*d.* in the Secondary School, Gozo, and £2 4*s.* 7*d.* in the Girls' Secondary School, Malta.

Commercial Evening Classes.

Evening classes in commerce were started in the Lyceum in October, 1917, comprising classes in book-keeping, commerce, shorthand and typewriting. The average attendance at these classes was 177, of whom 60 were girls.

University.

The average number of students attending the University was 139, as compared with 184 in the previous year.

The cost of the University, including the Botanic Gardens, was £6,256, and the revenue, £1,868; the average cost per student was £31 11*s.* 4*d.* as compared with £22 6*s.* 9*d.* in the previous year.

The Curator of the University Museum has been engaged in the investigation of the palaeontological remains found in the cave of Ghar Dalam, in the vicinity of Marsa Scirocco Harbour. Systematic excavations have been carried out during the year with excellent results. The discoveries are assigned to the Pleistocene period.

Research work in various parts of the Island has also given good results especially in entomology and malacology. In these sections several important varieties and even perhaps new species have been

found. By means of dredging in the various bays and harbours a quantity of material has been brought together. A very interesting collection of marine shells has recently been added to the Museum.

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

Hospitals, Asylums, etc.

The number of patients admitted into the Hospitals of Malta and Gozo was 3,974, as against 3,610 in the previous year. In addition to these, 145,834 persons were attended by the District Medical Officers at the Government Dispensaries or at their own residences. In 1917–18 the number was 148,116.

In the Lunatic Asylum there were 772 patients on 31st March, 1919. The number of admissions in the year under review was 176 while 99 were discharged. The number of deaths was 102.

The number of inmates in the Leper Hospital on 31st March, 1919, was 93, 5 less than at the end of the previous year. The total number of inmates maintained in the Poor House of Malta and the Orphan Asylum was 953, as compared with 987 in the preceding year, while the number of inmates in the Gozo Poor House was 193, one more than in the previous year.

Outdoor relief was granted to 4,298 persons, as against 4,292 in 1917–18.

The total cost of the Charitable Institutions in Malta and Gozo (exclusive of works) was £112,663, as against £99,962 in 1917–18.

Savings Bank.

The number of depositors in the Savings Bank on 31st March, 1919, was 7,546, and the amount standing to their credit, including deposits on account of the Prize Court, was £719,145, of which £667,260 was invested in British and Colonial securities, in the Monte di Pieta, and in London Banks.

The deposits made during the year amounted to £221,567 and the withdrawals to £186,561 as against £220,856 and £243,476, respectively in 1917–18.

The revenue derived from interest on invested funds, and sale of passbooks was £22,523, whilst the expenses of management, and interest to depositors amounted to £12,320, leaving a net profit of £10,203.

In the Gozo Savings Bank there were 698 depositors on 31st March, 1919, the total amount standing to their credit being £55,628. The deposits made during the year amounted to £8,459, and the withdrawals to £8,166, as compared with £8,417 and £8,612 respectively in the previous year.

VI.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

Police.

The authorised strength of the Police on 31st March, 1919, was 31 officers and 513 non-commissioned officers and men, while the actual strength was 29 officers and 504 non-commissioned officers and men.

The total cost of the Police for the year was £40,290, made up of £32,460 for " Personal Emoluments " and £7,830 for " Other Charges."

Prisons.

The total number of prisoners committed to prison, exclusive of debtors was 3,978, of whom 3,122 were males and 856 females, as against 5,584, of whom 4,619 were males and 965 were females, in 1917–18.

The juvenile offenders were 604, as compared with 673 in 1917–18.

The number of persons sentenced to imprisonment with or without hard labour was 1,852, as against 2,516 in the previous year. The number of prisoners under detention was 1,380, as against 2,066 in 1917–18.

The daily average population of the prison was 276·38, as against 378·70 in the previous year.

The general health of the prisoners was good.

One hundred and twelve prisoners were admitted to the prison infirmary during the year, 93 to the Manoel Hospital, and the daily average on the sick list, including prisoners on medical diet not admitted into infirmary, was 53·72, as against 55·22 in the previous year. Two deaths in the Manoel Hospital occurred during the year.

The number of offences against prison discipline was 2,146, as compared with 2,817 in 1917–18.

The prisoners were employed on cleaning, washing, making and mending clothing and bedding for the prison, pumping water, stone-breaking, cultivation of prison lands, and manufacturing brooms, coir, and rush mats; and those who knew a trade were employed on tinsmith work, painting, whitewashing, masonry, carpentry, book-binding, or shoemaking.

The total cost of the prisons in the two islands was £8,671 3*s*. 5*d*., as against £9,926 in 1917–18.

Criminal and Judicial Statistics.

The number of offences reported to the police was 31,109, a decrease of 9,553 as compared with 1917–18.

They may be classified as follows:—

Homicide	4
Other offences against the person	4,043
Offences against the good order of families ..	101
Offences against property	3,267
Other offences	23,694
Total	31,109

The number of offences dealt with by the Courts of Judicial Police in Malta and Gozo was 22,700.

The number of offences not dealt with by the Courts was 8,409, or 27·03 per cent. of the total number reported to the police, while the number of crimes the perpetrators of which were not discovered was 107, or 3·25 per cent. of the total number reported, which was 3,289.

In connection with the offences dealt with by the Courts of Judicial Police 22,700 persons were summoned before the Magistrates, as compared with 27,354 in the previous year, a decrease of 4,654.

One hundred and six persons were tried by jury during the year 1918–19, as against 205 in 1917–18.

The results were as follows :—

	1917–18	1918–19
Convicted	133	71
Acquitted	42	35
	205	106

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

The civil population on the 1st April, 1919, was calculated at 224,655, an increase of 332, as compared with the population on the 1st April, 1918.

The total number of births in the last two years was as follows :—

	1917–18	1918–19
Males	3,490	3,627
Females	3,198	3,135
Total	6,688	6,762

The birth-rate for the year was 30·09 per mille, as compared with 29·81 per mille in the previous year. The average birth-rate for the past 10 years was 33·07 per mille.

The number of deaths was as follows :—

	1917–18	1918–19
Males	2,981	2,958
Females	2,897	2,971
Total	5,878	5,929

The death-rate in 1918–19 was 26·30 per mille, as against 26·22 in 1917–18, while the average death-rate for the past decade was 22·80 per mille.

The death-rate among children under 12 months was 244·60 per 1,000 births, as against 293·36 in the previous year. The death-rate of children under 5 years was 107·06 per 1,000 of the population at that age, as compared with 128·35 in the previous year. There were 1,642 marriages, as compared with 1,496 in the previous twelve months.

The world-wide prevalence of influenza marked by intercurrent or subsequent pneumonic infection has been this year the outstanding feature of the incidence of communicable diseases in these islands. The number of deaths certified as due to influenza as a primary cause of one or other of the fatal complications has been 685, equal to a mortality rate of 3·04 per 1,000 population. Inclusion of all deaths from broncho-pneumonia and pneumonia would bring this rate up to 4·11. These numbers, when compared with foreign statistics, will be found to denote that our loss of life has been fortunately less heavy than that which the terrible scourge has exacted from other communities. As was expected an increase in the number of deaths from pulmonary

tuberculosis has been observed, and is accounted for by the injurious spurt set on by inter-current influenzal infection. Otherwise the general state of health of these islands has been satisfactory.

The number of goats and sheep found infected with undulant fever and destroyed was 187, out of a total of 4,613 that were examined.

4,439 persons were successfully vaccinated.

Climate.

The highest temperature in the shade was 99·0 at Casal Zurrico on 23rd September, and the lowest 38·5 at Casal Lia on 10th February. The mean temperature for the year was 65·1, as compared with 64·8 in 1917–18.

The mean temperature for the summer months of June, July, August, and September was 74·8. In 1917–18 it was 76·6. The mean temperature for the winter months of January, February, and March was 55·9, or 1·9 higher than that of the preceding year.

The total mean rainfall was 20·44 or 2·73 inches more than that of 1917–18.

VIII.—POSTAL AND TELEPHONE SERVICES.

The total number of mails received during the year was 8,142, and the number despatched 2,788, against 9,427 and 4,305 respectively in 1917–18.

The total number of registered articles received and despatched was 166,170, as against 212,259 in the previous year, a decrease of 46,089.

The total number of money orders issued and paid in the Colony was 25,419 (£180,626), and the total number of postal orders issued and paid was 95,653 (£51,737).

The total number of parcels received and despatched was 69,735, as against 70,784 in 1917–18, showing a decrease of 1,049. The total number of letters, post-cards, and printed matter dealt with during the year was 7,129,023, against 7,738,246 in 1917–18.

The total length of aerial telephone wires belonging to the Melita Telephone Exchange is 785 miles.

IX.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

The gross revenue of the Railway during 1918–19 was £14,293, as against £10,439 in 1917–18. The expenditure, including additions and renewals (£2,767), was £15,067; in addition to which £128 was expended on the Railway Technical School.

The revenue derived from water supplied, introduction of house services, and rent of meters was £27,567, as compared with £27,030 in 1917–18. 798,000,000 gallons of water were consumed in 1918–19, as against 826,000,000 in the previous year.

The revenue derived from the electric lighting installation was £28,299, as compared with £21,726 in 1917–18. The capital on 31st March, 1919, was £53,834, and the profit on the year's working after deducting interest and depreciation was £2,155 or 4 per cent.

The total number of units generated (exclusive of Central Station units) was 1,380,500, as compared with 1,118,745 units generated in 1917–18.

Prices of commodities continued to rise as imports of foodstuffs and other necessaries became more restricted, while facilities for trade and employment, or the means of adding to incomes, diminished. By arrangement with the Governments of Egypt and Tunis certain quantities of foodstuffs were secured, and assistance was given by the Admiralty by providing for the conveyance of these supplies in vessels under Admiralty charter when possible, and at special rates of freight. The distribution was controlled by a Board and the result was that a fair supply of essential foodstuffs was maintained at a time of general scarcity with the least possible artificial increase of cost.

Effective control was maintained over the price, supply, and distribution of all essential commodities by the Control Board. District Committees kept watch on the stocks and consumption of all articles of importance, and advised as regards supplies to individual retailers to suit the requirements of their districts. The Flour Control Office regulated the admixture of locally milled and imported flour, as well as flour from cereals other than wheat in such a way as to maintain economy of consumption and provide bread at the cheapest possible price.

The measures taken during the previous year in order to provide cheap food and fuel for the poor were continued. Kitchens were maintained in various districts where vegetable soup was supplied, and stoves constructed to burn sawdust or paper were distributed at cheap prices.

The restoration of peace has not been followed by a fall in price of essential commodities, and although every effort is being made to provide sufficient work for the dockyard to maintain the large staff employed there during the War, the conclusion of hostilities has naturally curtailed opportunities for special employment. As the shipping situation is not favourable to the resumption of normal trade, and also hampers emigration on any but a small scale, the position in Malta, with its large population of artizans and labourers, is likely to present difficulty for some time to come.

I have, &c.,

W. C. F. ROBERTSON,

Lieutenant-Governor and
Chief Secretary to Government.

His Excellency
The Governor.

COLONIAL REPORTS, &c.

The following recent reports, &c., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page:—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, &c.	Year.
976	British Guiana	1917
977	St. Vincent	1917–1918
978	Bahamas	,,
979	Gambia	1917
980	Jamaica	1917–1918
981	Gibraltar	1917
982	Bermuda	,,
983	Swaziland	1917–1918
984	Trinidad	1917
985	Mauritius	,,
986	Cyprus	1917–1918
987	Bechuanaland Protectorate	,,
988	East Africa Protectorate	1916–1917
989	Barbados	1917–1918
990	Sierra Leone	1917
991	Straits Settlements	,,
992	Leeward Islands	1917–1918
993	Uganda	,,
994	British Honduras	1917
995	Gilbert and Ellice Islands	1917–1918
996	Nyasaland	,,
997	Basutoland	,,
998	Gold Coast	1917
999	Weihaiwei	1918
1000	Zanzibar	,,
1001	Hong Kong	,,
1002	Somaliland	1917–1918
1003	Cayman Islands	,,

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, &c.	Subject.
79	Northern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1907–8 and 1908–9.
80	Nyasaland	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
81	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
82	Imperial Institute	Rubber and Gutta-percha.
83	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1910.
84	West Indies	Preservation of Ancient Monuments, &c.
85	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1911.
86	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey. 1912.
87	Ceylon	Mineral Survey.
88	Imperial Institute	Oilseeds, Oils. &c.
89	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1913.
90	St. Vincent	Roads and Land Settlement.

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COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 1055.

MALTA.

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REPORT FOR 1919-20.

(For Report for 1918–19 see No. 1004.)

Presented to Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
December, 1920.

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MALTA.

REPORT FOR 1919–1920.*

I.—FINANCIAL.

The revenue for the year 1919–20 amounted to £650,489, and the expenditure to £632,233, leaving a balance in favour of revenue of £18,256, which, added to the accumulated balance remaining on the 31st March 1919, viz.: £43,516, makes the excess of assets over liabilities on the 31st of March 1920, £61,772.

The amount shown above as expended during the year does not include £160,764 paid as bread subsidy. This has been charged to a suspense account pending the receipt of a grant of £250,000 promised by the Imperial Government.

The gross revenue and expenditure for the last five years are as follows:—

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure	Surplus or deficit of Revenue over Expenditure.
1915–16 ..	£463,002	£410,389	+£52,613
1916–17 ..	£460,165	£462,469	— £2,304
1917–18 ..	£470,976	£484,726	—£13,750
1918–19 ..	£615,225	£601,033	+£14,192
1919–20 ..	£650,489	£632,233	+£18,256

Revenue.

The revenue for 1919–20 shows an increase over that of 1918–19 of £35,264.

The principal increases and decreases in revenue were in Customs, Harbour Dues, Licences and other Duties, and Fees of Office and Reimbursements.

* Sketch maps will be found in the Report for 1914–1915. [Cd. 7622–45].

EXPENDITURE.

The total expenditure was £632,233 showing an increase as compared with that for 1918–19 of £31,200.

The principal increases were under the following Heads :—Police, Charitable Institutions, Elementary Schools and Public Works.

To some extent also expenditure in 1918–19 was abnormal as it included payments of about £8,500 in respect of services for 1917–18.

The assets and liabilities of the Government at the close of the year, and at the close of 1918–19, were as follows :—

Year.	Assets.	Liabilities.	Surplus.
1918–19	£1,117,351	£1,073,835	£43,516
1919–20	£1,343,446	£1,281,674	£61,772
Increase ..	£226,095	£207,839	£18,256

The value of British and Colonial Securities held by Government on General Account and on account of the Savings Bank, calculated at the market price on the 31st March 1920, shows a depreciation of £205,454. The Depreciation Fund stands at £153,030.

CURRENCY IN CIRCULATION.

The amount of British Treasury paper currency notes in circulation on 31st March 1920 was roughly estimated at £880,000.

The amount of British gold, silver, and bronze coins in circulation cannot be ascertained.

II.—TRADE AND AGRICULTURE.

IMPORTS.

The total value of the imports of merchandise, including the value of goods entered by parcel post and excluding bullion and goods imported for transhipment, was £4,261,745, as compared with £2,863,920 in 1918–19, showing an increase of £1,397,825.

The value of imports during the year was £1,442,828 above the average for the past three years.

EXPORTS.

The value of exports amounted to £918,588, as compared with £779,925 in 1918–19, an increase of £138,663.

(726) Wt. 32796/354. 1,250 & 90. 12.20. B.&F.Ltd. C.11.14.

The following tables show the value of *Imports* and *Exports* (exclusive of Transhipments and Bullion and Specie) for the years 1917–18, 1918–19, 1919–20.

IMPORTS.

Classes.	1917–18.				1918–19.				1919–20.			
	United Kingdom	British Colonies	Foreign Countries	Total	United Kingdom.	British Colonies	Foreign Countries	Total	United Kingdom	British Colonies	Foreign Countries	Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
I. Food, Drink & Tobacco ..	553,567	841,089	521,397	1,916,053	511,029	695,300	593,033	1,799,362	1,003,038	480,421	702,851	2,186,310
II. Raw Materials and articles mainly unmanufactured	120,507	98,756	14,863	234,126	16,740	35,457	135,730	187,927	430,961	141,228	53,358	625,547
III. Manufactured articles ..	418,575	32,542	163,720	614,837	543,473	32,902	160,268	736,643	856,508	34,281	239,416	1,130,205
IV. Miscellaneous & unclassified	181	77,547	31,676	109,404	21	70,693	69,274	139,988	2,302	8,565	308,816	319,683
TOTALS	1,092,830	1,049,934	731,656	2,874,420	1,071,263	834,352	958,305	2,863,920	2,292,809	664,495	1,304,441	4,261,745

EXPORTS.

Classes.	1917–18.				1918–19.				1919–20.			
	United Kingdom	British Colonies	Foreign Countries	Total	United Kingdom	British Colonies	Foreign Countries	Total	United Kingdom	British Colonies	Foreign Countries	Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
I. Food, Drink & Tobacco ..	5,496	13,004	198,958	217,458	3,184	15,269	261,299	279,752	23,028	28,264	148,829	200,121
II. Raw materials and articles mainly unmanufactured	9,888	3,018	331,072	343,978	12,999	3,076	351,536	367,611	9,354	6,192	521,476	537,022
III. Manufactured articles ..	8,611	10,060	16,823	35,494	817	10,210	95,970	106,997	5,096	16,737	97,171	119,004
IV. Miscellaneous & unclassified	3,401	4,848	5,033	13,282	5,591	6,669	13,305	25,565	19,939	17,133	25,069	62,441
TOTALS.	27,396	30,930	551,886	610,212	22,591	35,224	722,110	779,925	57,417	68,626	792,545	918,588

SHIPPING.

The number of British steamers which called at Malta during the year 1919–20 was 489, representing a total tonnage of 1,292,755. The number of foreign steamers entered was 386, the tonnage being 583,528.

AGRICULTURE.

The total area of land shown in the returns as being under cultivation was 42,860 acres, a decrease of 257 acres as compared with the previous year. The area of uncultivated land was estimated at 3,830 acres, as against 3,611 in 1918–19.

The number of holdings was estimated at 11,100, or three less than in 1918–19. The principal agricultural products were wheat, barley, and " Mischiato " (a mixture of both), sulla, a form of clover used for forage, potatoes, onions, beans and pulse. The area under cereals was 20,498 acres, as compared with 18,912 in the previous year, the increase being due to the high price commanded by wheat and barley. The total yield was : Wheat 39,713 quarters ; barley 18,682 quarters ; and " mischiato " 5,120 quarters.

The area under beans and pulse was 2,295 acres, against 2,628 acres in 1918–19, and the total yield was 4,192 quarters, as compared with 5,064 quarters in the previous year. The area planted with potatoes was 2,752 acres, 1,035 acres less than in 1918–19, and the total yield was 16,940 tons, as compared with 21,572 tons in 1918–19. 1,950 tons of imported seed potatoes were planted during the year.

The area planted with onions was 920 acres, a decrease of 272 acres as compared with the previous year. The yield amounted to 2,839 tons, or 721 tons less than in 1918–19.

Cumin was sown on 206 acres, as against 115 acres in the previous year. The total quantity of oranges, lemons and mandarines gathered is estimated at 141,645 dozen, as compared with 165,480 dozen in 1918–19, and 171,500 dozen in 1917–18.

The area under cotton was 630 acres, the total yield being 137,160 lbs. The average yield per acre in Gozo was 230 lbs., and in Malta 210 lbs. The average production per acre in 1917–18 was over 186 lbs., and the total amount of the crop 125,936 lbs., although a larger area was under cultivation, viz., 677 acres.

To encourage cultivation, export of a limited quantity was allowed. The cotton grown is short staple, and is used in conjunction with imported Egyptian cotton of a longer staple for manufacture of cloth, which forms a cottage industry of some value, and for the manufacture of sail cloth, of which there is a considerable export.

Ten thousand five hundred and sixty-nine acres were under sulla, green barley, vetches, etc., as against 11,063 acres in the previous year. The total yield amounted to 289,983 loads of ten bundles each, as compared with 227,520 loads in 1918–19. The total value of agricultural produce of the Island, exclusive of meat, milk, cheese, poultry and eggs, is estimated at £752,759.

The average total rainfall from September to April amounted only to 14·07 inches, and the drought was severely felt, particularly in early autumn and in spring when rain is most needed. The normal average rainfall is about 18 inches. As regards its distribution the rainfall

in Gozo and in the western part of Malta was markedly less than in the central and eastern parts of the latter Island. The crops generally were singularly free from disease. The dry weather prevented the development of fungous diseases and insect parasites were kept well in check by their natural enemies.

The existence of Phylloxera in certain vineyards in Gozo was discovered during the year, and immediate measures were taken to deal with the danger. A large number of shoots of American immune vines were obtained and distributed to farmers, while nurseries have been established in Gozo and Malta to provide supplies for further distribution. The disease appears to have been introduced with vines imported from Africa.

Fisheries.

Nine hundred and forty boats were engaged in the fishing industry, and the number of hands employed is estimated at 3,500. Tha average catch for the year 1919–20 was about 600 lbs. per diem. This industry is not in an advanced condition, and as a preliminary step towards improvement an Inspector was appointed and charged with the duty of acquiring all information available and advising the Government as regards action to be taken. A private Company was formed for purposes of trawling, and experiments in this direction have given encouraging results.

III.—LEGISLATION.

Twenty-three Ordinances were passed by the Legislature during the year. The most important of these were:—

No. VI of 1919.—"An Ordinance to provide for the settlement of pre-war enemy debts." The object of this Ordinance was to maintain the prohibition regarding the payment of pre-war debts to enemies and the restoration of enemy property until the necessary arrangements for the settlement of such debts and property were sanctioned by the Government.

No. VIII of 1919.—"An Ordinance to amend Ordinance No. II of 1908 (The Naturalization Ordinance)." By this Ordinance, rules similar to those enacted in the United Kingdom in 1918 were laid down for the revocation of local certificates of naturalization.

No. IX of 1919.—"An Ordinance to provide for the establishment of a Juvenile Court, and for prohibiting the presence of juveniles in Courts of Criminal Jurisdiction."

No. XIV of 1919.—"An Ordinance to regulate the exercise of the profession of Land Surveyors and Architects." This Ordinance lays down that the Warrant to practise as Land Surveyor and Architect shall be granted only to persons who produce evidence that they have pursued the prescribed course of studies in the University, and provides for the institution of a Chamber of Architects with disciplinary powers.

No. XIX of 1919.—"An Ordinance to make provision respecting the admission of former enemy aliens." This Ordinance prohibits, for the period of three years after the ratification of peace, the landing in Malta of former enemy aliens, without a permit from the Lieutenant-Governor.

No. XX of 1919.—"An Ordinance to repeal and to re-enact with amendments, Ordinance No. XII of 1893 (The Lepers Ordinance)." The chief new provisions of this Ordinance are that the landing in Malta of passengers suffering from leprosy is prohibited, and that the Head of the Government is empowered to discharge inmates of the Leper Hospital under certain conditions.

No. XXIV of 1919.—"An Ordinance to make provision respecting duties on excess profits made during the War." Under this Ordinance trade profits made during the five years of the War exceeding by more than £100 in each year the pre-war standard of profits were made chargeable with an excess profit duty ranging between 5 and 15 per cent.

No. IV of 1920.—"An Ordinance to amend the Explosives Ordinance, 1904." With a view to protect immature fish and preserve the food supply of the Island, the penalties for the use of explosive substances for fishing purposes were increased.

IV.—EDUCATION.

Elementary Education.

During the scholastic year, 1st September, 1918 to 31st August, 1919, the number of Government Day Schools was 102, viz.: 43 Boys' Schools (34 in Malta, 9 in Gozo), 43 Girls' Schools (34 in Malta, 9 in Gozo) and 16 Infant Schools (15 in Malta and 1 in Gozo). The girls' schools generally include infant divisions.

The average number of children on the registers was 20,291 (10,517 boys and 9,774 girls), and the average attendance 16,329 (8,450 boys and 7,879 girls). The percentage of the average attendance to the average number on the registers was 80·4. The figures for the previous year were 20,732, 16,560, and 79·8 respectively.

Commencing from September 1919, the minimum admission age of children to Government schools was fixed at 6 years.

The number of new admissions during the year under review was 4,216 (2,141 boys and 2,075 girls), while the number of withdrawals was 4,749 (2,367 boys and 2,382 girls).

The Valletta School buildings used as a Military Hospital during the War reverted to the Education Department in September, 1919.

Continuation classes intended to assist boys preparing for secondary education, engineering (marine and electrical) courses, and the examinations for admission to His Majesty's Dockyard, were held in twelve centres. 244 students entered for these classes and the average attendance was 192.

Thirty-nine night schools were maintained (30 in Malta and 9 in Gozo). The number of students enrolled was 1,480, and the average attendance was 705. The corresponding figures for the previous year were 1,599 and 756.

The local training courses for teachers were attended by 37 males and 177 females, as compared with 42 and 150 respectively in 1918–19.

The total expenditure on elementary education during the financial year 1919–20 was £45,374, as compared with £34,008 in 1918–19. The increase is attributable to the payment of war bonus, and the adoption of a Revised Scheme of salaries to the staff.

Calculated on the average number of scholars on the registers, the average annual cost per head was £2 1*s.* 3*d.*, and calculated on the average attendance it was £2 12*s.* 8*d.*

Secondary Education.

There are three Government Secondary Schools, viz. : the Lyceum, the Gozo Boys' Secondary School, and the Malta Girls' Secondary School.

The number of pupils at the Lyceum for the year 1918–19 was 531. The average percentage of attendance was 92 in the obligatory classes, and 66 in the classes of Marine and Electrical Engineering.

The Secondary School for Boys in Gozo was attended by 48 pupils, and the average percentage of attendance was 88, against 90 in the previous year.

The Secondary School for Girls in Malta was attended by 186 pupils, as against 223 in the preceding year; the average attendance was 82 per cent. of the average number on the roll as compared with 85 per cent. in 1917–18.

The average cost per student was £4 18*s.* 6*d.* in the Lyceum, £4 6*s.* 9*d.* in the Secondary School, Gozo, and £2 8*s.* 11*d.* in the Girls' Secondary School, Malta.

Commercial Evening Classes.

Evening classes were held during the year at the Lyceum, the subjects of instruction being book-keeping, commerce, French, practical mathematics, shorthand and typewriting. The average attendance at these classes was 276, or 99 more than in the previous year. The number in attendance included 94 girls.

University.

The average number of students attending the University was 221 as compared with 139 in the preceding year. This is attributable to the fact that in this year the new Preparatory Course is started before the completion of the preceding Academical Course.

The cost of the University, including the Botanic Gardens, was £6,590 and the revenue £2,115; the average cost per student was £19 9*s.* 7*d.*, as compared with £31 11*s.* 4*d.* in the previous year.

Palaeontological investigations were continued during the year by the Curator of the Natural History Museum, the excavations at the

cave of Ghar Dalam yielding important results. Amongst the discoveries were human teeth assigned to the Neanderthal period, remains of the hippopotamus, elephant, stag, wolf, vole, as well as of the fox, tortoise and toad. The vole is of a species new to science and has been classified at the British Museum as "*Arvicola Melitensis.*"

Research work in other parts of the two Islands has given also satisfactory results. The terrestrial and marine malacofauna of the little Island of Comino are now well represented in the Museum.

An important addition to the collection of Mammals of these Islands is a shrew which was found in the vicinity of Zebbug, Gozo.

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

Hospitals, Asylums, etc.

The number of patients admitted into the Hospitals of Malta and Gozo was 3,882, as against 3,974 in the previous year. In addition to these, 133,030 persons were attended by the District Medical Officers at the Government Dispensaries or at their own residences, as against 145,834 in 1918–19.

In the Lunatic Asylum there were 776 patients on 31st March, 1920. The number of admissions in the year under review was 150, while 106 were discharged. The number of deaths was 40.

The number of inmates in the Leper Hospital on 31st March, 1920, was 84, nine less than at the end of the previous year. The total number of inmates maintained in the Poor House of Malta and the Orphan Asylum was 982, as compared with 953 in the preceding year, while the number of inmates in the Gozo Poor House was 209, sixteen more than in the previous year.

Outdoor relief was granted to 4,093 persons as against 4,298 in 1918–19.

The total cost of the Charitable Institutions in Malta and Gozo (exclusive of works) was £120,509, as against £112,663 in 1918–19.

Savings Bank.

The number of depositors in the Savings Bank on 31st March, 1920, was 8,216 and the amount standing to their credit, including deposits on account of the Prize Court, was £786,980. Of this amount £736,768 was invested in British and Colonial securities, and in London Banks.

The deposits made during the year amounted to £295,693, and the withdrawals to £240,342, as against £221,567 and £186,561, respectively, in 1918–19.

The revenue derived from interest on invested funds, sale of pass-books and unappropriated interest was £24,802. The expenses of management and interest to depositors amounted to £13,730, leaving a net profit of £11,072.

VI.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

Police.

The authorized strength of the Police on 31st March, 1919, was 30 officers and 491 non-commissioned officers and men. The actual strength was 29 officers and 481 non-commissioned officers and men.

The total cost of the Police for the year was £57,051. Of this sum £46,913 represents "Personal Emoluments" and £10,138 "Other Charges."

Prisons.

The total number of prisoners committed to prison, exclusive of debtors, was 2,980, of whom 2,428 were males and 552 females. In the previous year the number was 3,978, 3,122 males and 856 females.

The number of juvenile offenders was 433, as compared with 604 in 1918–19.

The number of persons sentenced to imprisonment with or without hard labour was 1,357, and the number of prisoners under detention was 898. In 1918–19 the numbers were respectively 1,852 and 1,380.

The daily average population of the prison was 240·79, as against 276·38 in the previous year.

The general health of the prisoners was satisfactory.

Seventy-nine prisoners were admitted to the prison infirmary during the year, and the daily average on the sick list, including prisoners on medical diet not admitted into infirmary, was 24·25 as against 53·72 in the previous year.

The number of offences against prison discipline was 2,306, as compared with 2,146 in 1918–19.

The prisoners were employed on cleaning, washing, making and mending clothing and bedding for the prison, pumping water, stone-breaking, cultivation of prison lands, and manufacturing brooms, coir and rush mats, and picking oakum; instruction in book-binding has been given regularly, and in other trades such as carpentry, masonry, tinsmith work, as opportunity offers.

The total cost of the prisons in the two Islands was £9,307 as against £8,671 in 1918–19.

Criminal and Judicial Statistics.

The number of offences reported to the police was 26,040, a decrease of 5,069 as compared with 1918–19.

They may be classified as follows:—

Homicides	8
Other offences against the person	5,334
Offences against the good order of families ..	99
Offences against property	4,150
Other offences	16,449
Total ..	26,040

The number of offences dealt with by the Courts of Judicial Police in Malta and Gozo was 19,956.

The number of offences not dealt with by the Courts was 6,084, or 23·36 per cent. of the total number reported to the police. The number of crimes reported was 2,368: in 248 cases the perpetrators were not discovered.

19,956 persons were summoned before the Magistrates for offences which are dealt with by the Courts of Judicial Police, a decrease of 2,744 as compared with the previous year.

Two hundred and eighty-five persons were tried by jury during the year 1919–20, as against 106 in 1918–19.

The results were as follows:—

	1918–19	1919–20
Convicted	71	164
Acquitted	35	121
Total	106	285

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

The civil population on the 1st April, 1920, was estimated at 224,859, an increase of 204, as compared with the estimated population on the 1st April, 1919.

The total number of births in the last two years was as follows:—

	1918–19	1919–20
Males	3,627	3,525
Females	3,135	3,262
Total	6,762	6,787

The birth-rate for the year was 31·69 per mille, as compared with 30·09 per mille in the previous year. The average birth-rate for the past 10 years was 31·38 per mille.

The number of deaths was as follows:—

	1918–19	1919–20
Males	2,958	2,340
Females	2,971	2,246
Total	5,929	4,586

The death-rate in 1919–20 was 20·39 per mille, as against 26·30 in 1918–19, while the average death-rate for the past decade was 22·89 per mille.

The death-rate among children under 12 months was 220·42 per 1,000 births, as against 244·60 in the previous year. The death-rate of children under 5 years was 84·95 per 1,000 of the population at that age, as compared with 107·06 in the previous year. There were 2,038 marriages, as compared with 1,642 in the previous twelve months.

The death-rate from notifiable infectious diseases fell from 6·28 in 1918–19 to 2·56 in 1919–20, and the general state of health in the Islands may be regarded as satisfactory.

Rigorous sanitary measures have succeeded in preventing the introduction of dangerous contagious diseases such as plague, typhus, etc., and small-pox infection whenever introduced has been effectively checked.

Endemic fevers have been prevalent but mortality has been moderate.

There were 110 cases of malaria. In 90 of these cases the disease was contracted elsewhere. The remaining 20 cases occurred during September-November in one locality in the vicinity of the Salt Pans at Is-Salini, and there is reason to believe that the infection was of local origin. The symptoms were those of benign tertian fever. Measures to improve the drainage at this place were undertaken, and there was no recurrence of the disease during the year.

The number of goats and sheep found infected with undulant fever and destroyed was 341, out of a total of 5,690 that were examined.

Three thousand seven hundred and twenty-two persons were successfully vaccinated.

Climate.

The highest temperature in the shade was 100° at Casal Lia on 13th July, and the lowest 38·0 at Casal Zeitun on 27th December. The mean temperature for the year was 64·8, as compared with 65·1 in 1918–19. The mean temperature for the summer months of June, July, August and September was 75·9. In 1918–19 it was 74·8. The mean temperature for the winter months of January, February and March was 54·6, or 1·3 lower than that of the preceding year.

The total mean rainfall for the period April 1919 to March, 1920, was 15·30 or 5·14 inches less than that of 1918–19.

VIII.—POSTAL AND TELEPHONE SERVICE.

The total number of mails received during the year was 8,215, and the number despatched 2,871, against 8,142 and 2,788 respectively in 1918–19.

The total number of registered articles received and despatched was 182,689, as against 166,170 in the previous year, an increase of 16,519.

The total number of money orders issued and paid in the Colony was 18,402 representing £183,082, and the total number of postal orders issued and paid was 67,685, representing £42,754.

The total number of parcels received and despatched was 74,955, as against 69,735 in 1918–19, an increase of 5,220.

The total number of letters, post-cards and printed matter dealt with during the year was 9,268,331, as compared with 7,129,023 in 1918–19.

The total length of aerial telephone wires belonging to the Melita Telephone Exchange is 785 miles.

IX.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

765,198,000 gallons of water were supplied in 1919–20 as against 787,575,000 in the previous year. The revenue derived from water supplied, introduction of house services, and rent of meters was £26,037, as compared with £27,455 in 1918–19.

The revenue derived from the electric lighting undertaking was £34,925, as compared with £28,299 in 1918–19. The capital on 31st March, 1920, was £55,102, and the profit on the year's working after deducting interest and depreciation was £2,933 or 5·3 per cent.

The total number of units generated (exclusive of Central Station units) was 1,796,480, as compared with 1,378,621 units generated in 1918–19.

The question of replacing worn-out plant, and providing additional machinery in order to keep pace with the demand for current was referred to the Consulting Engineers. An expert engineer was sent out at the request of the Government to make recommendations after investigation of local conditions. Proposals for enlargement of the works on business lines, involving further capital expenditure, are now under consideration.

The problem of checking as far as practicable the constant rise in the cost of living continued to be the main difficulty with which the Government had to contend during the year under review. Through the agency of the Control Board and the Flour Control Office, supplies were maintained and prices were controlled: increased shipping facilities removed one obstacle to importation, but the high prices and uncertainty of the market restricted private enterprise, and direct purchase by Government was sometimes necessary in order to keep the population provided with essential commodities such as wheat, flour and sugar.

The number of men unemployed was swollen by the discharge of about 15,000 men from the Naval and Military establishments and the Mercantile Marine, and the Government found itself under the necessity of providing for these men without delay. An Emigration Committee was established to investigate the most suitable outlets for Maltese labour, and to assist emigration in every possible way. As a result of negotiations with the French Authorities employment on reconstruction work in the devastated regions of France was secured for 700 workmen on favourable terms. The fall of the French exchange, however, arrested further emigration to France, while the high wages obtaining in the United States of America began to attract the best class of workmen, particularly the skilled artizans. Within a few months, 2,193 men, chiefly mechanics, emigrated to the United States of America, and 1,268 were awaiting passports on the 31st March. Others proceeded to Northern Africa, Canada and other countries. The total number of emigrants for the period under review amounts to 5,600. Special classes have been established to qualify intending emigrants for the literary test imposed in English-speaking countries.

During April, 1919, the price of bread rose to 6½*d.* a rotolo (1¾ lbs.), and as bread is the staple food in Malta the situation, in view especially of the increase in unemployment, became acute. In anticipation of the arrival of a cargo of Australian wheat obtained at a comparatively low price, the Government decided to reduce the price of bread by granting a subsidy. Though some relief was thus provided, want and discontent still remained general. A meeting of representatives of various classes of society was held in Valletta on the 7th of June to discuss an announcement which had been made by Government to the effect that it was the intention of the Secretary of State to consider the question of altering the present form of the Constitution. The Meeting was the occasion of the assembly of a large crowd, which speedily became so disorderly that the police were unable to maintain control. Considerable damage was done to property before order was restored with the assistance of military and naval detachments. Two houses, one in Valletta and one in the suburb of Hamrun, were looted in the afternoon of the following day, and a flour mill in the latter village burnt down, but further disorders were checked by a strong display of military force.

The reality of the distress prevailing among the poorer classes compelled the Government to continue the bread subsidy, and to increase it to an amount which would make it possible to provide bread at 4½*d.* per rotolo. The arrival of the Australian wheat of which mention is made above was still delayed, and the available funds of the local Government were not sufficient to provide for subsidy at the rate required for more than a short period. It was necessary, therefore, to appeal for assistance from the Imperial Government, and a grant of £250,000 was subsequently approved.

Colonel L. S. Amery, M.P., Under Secretary of State for the Colonies, visited Malta in September 1919, and discussed the various projects put forward for the revision of the terms of the Constitution, as well as questions of economic and administrative importance. Before the end of the year, the Secretary of State communicated the decision of His Majesty's Government to grant a Constitution to Malta which provided for responsible control by the Maltese of local affairs.

The salaries of Government employees had remained unchanged during the War although a special War Bonus had been allowed at first to those whose emoluments did not exceed £50 per annum, and later to Civil Servants in receipt of salaries up to £250 per annum. The increase in the cost of living made it necessary to consider the question of general revision, and a scheme for this purpose was approved and became operative from October 1919. The scheme affected all salaries up to £600 per annum, the principle adopted being that of percentage increase in inverse proportion to the salary. The revised scheme involved the suspension of all War Bonuses.

From an archaeological point of view the year 1919–20 has not been devoid of interest. The limits of the Tarxien prehistoric temple were determined both to the south and the north east, where the remains of smaller buildings, probably dwelling houses contemporary with the temple, were uncovered. Maltese well-tombs of the Punic and Roman periods were discovered in the Rabato district. Although

completely rifled, their architectural arrangement was important enough to justify a detailed survey. A number of prehistoric cart-tracks were also discovered to the north west of the Island and mapped out. A detailed survey of the prehistoric cart-tracks in these Islands is projected, and it is hoped that much light will be thrown on the date of the Neolithic period in Malta when more information on this subject is forthcoming.

COLONIAL REPORTS, &c.

The following recent reports, &c., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page:

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, &c.	Year.
1022	Gibraltar	1918
1023	Grenada	1918–1919
1024	Jamaica	,,
1025	Cyprus	,,
1026	British Honduras	1918
1027	British Solomon Islands	1918–1919
1028	Straits Settlements	1918
1029	Gold Coast	,,
1030	Nigeria	,,
1031	Leeward Islands	1918–1919
1032	Sierra Leone	1918
1033	Bahamas	1918–1919
1034	Gambia	1918
1035	Barbados	1918–1919
1036	Mauritius	1918
1037	St. Vincent	1918–1919
1038	Gilbert and Ellice Islands	,,
1039	St. Helena	1919
1040	Weihaiwei	,,
1041	Nyasaland	1918–1919
1042	Turks and Caicos Islands	1919
1043	Grenada	,,
1044	Bermuda	,,
1045	Basutoland	1919–1920
1046	Cyprus	,,
1047	Fiji	1919
1048	Straits Settlements	,,
1049	Ceylon	,,
1050	Gibraltar	,,
1051	Somaliland	1919–1920
1052	Zanzibar	1919
1053	Gambia	,,
1054	Uganda	1918–1919

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, &c.	Subject.
82	Imperial Institute	Rubber and Gutta-percha.
83	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1910.
84	West Indies	Preservation of Ancient Monuments, &c.
85	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1911.
86	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1912.
87	Ceylon	Mineral Survey.
88	Imperial Institute	Oilseeds, Oils, &c.
89	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1913.
90	St. Vincent	Roads and Land Settlement.
91	East Africa Protectorate	Geology and Geography of the northern part of the Protectorate.
92	Colonies—General	Fishes of the Colonies.

Printed under the authority of His Majesty's Stationery Office,
By Barclay & Fry, Ltd., Southwark, London, S.E. 1.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 1111.

MALTA.

REPORT FOR 1920-21.

(For Report for 1919–20 see No. 1055.)

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No. 1111.

MALTA.

REPORT FOR 1920-21.

(For Report for 1919-20 see No. 1055.)

THE PALACE, VALLETTA.

6th February, 1922.

Sir,

I have the honour to submit the following General Report* for the year 1920-21.

HISTORY.

1. The Maltese Islands once formed part of one of the land-bridges between North Africa and Southern Europe when the Mediterranean was represented by a series of fresh-water lakes. The connexion of the Islands with both continents is proved both by geological observation and by the numerous remains of extinct animals, ruminants and pachyderms, which lived on the Islands during the periods of glaciation of middle Europe.

2. The Maltese Islands were inhabited as early as the beginning of the Mousterian cultural period, about 40,000 B.C. by Neanderthal man, of whom remains were discovered in a cave to the South-East of Malta. Neanderthal man was coeval with the large pachyderms, and became extinct at the end of the fourth glacial epoch. Traces of paleolithic civilization are not wanting in the Islands, but there is not material enough to state definitely how far this early settlement extended.

3. If the tracing of the evolution of paleolithic age is difficult, we find in the Islands a neolithic civilization in the fullest bloom ever known in any part of the world. Cave dwellings, stone circles, menhirs and dolmens are found all over the Islands, but the most remarkable buildings are the elaborate megalithic sanctuaries and a wonderful hypogeum, the workmanship of stone age. Flint implements, stone and clay statuettes, personal

* Sketch maps will be found in the Report for 1914-1915. [Cd. 7622-45].

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ornaments of shell and polished hard stones, denote a prosperous and an enlightened population, and a collection of the finest pottery in existence testifies to high artistic attainments. The neolithic period may well be called the golden age of the Maltese Islands.

4. The Bronze Age of Malta must have been short and in fact we find it merged at an early date with Phœnician activity. The Phœnicians must have taken possession of Malta as soon as they made themselves masters of the Mediterranean Sea, about 1500 B.C. In Phœnician remains the Island is not rich, but numerous rock-cut Sydonian graves denote the adoption of Phœnician customs among the population. The Carthaginians, natural heirs of the Phœnicians, occupied the Island down to the second Punic War. Under their domination the Maltese must have greatly prospered and increased in numbers, so that, when the Romans, in 242 B.C., took official possession of Malta and the other Mediterranean Islands, they found a thriving population, for whom a special set of coins were struck bearing Phœnician symbols with Roman or Greek inscriptions. Rome held sway over Malta for more than a thousand years. The monuments and the inscriptions of this period show evidence of Roman institutions worked by Roman officials. The burial customs remained those of Carthage but modified by Roman and especially by Christian ideas. Thus we see the Sydonian graves evolved into elaborate catacombs. That St. Paul was really shipwrecked in Malta is not proved solely by tradition, but is demonstrated by the numerous Christian catacombs cut during the Roman dominations.

5. The fall of the Roman Empire may well have brought the Visigoths to Malta, but of this there is no proof, and the Saracens, who seized the Islands in A.D. 870 and kept them for two centuries, were the next recorded rulers.

6. The Saracens left scarcely a trace of their presence in Malta, no mosques, no coins, no pottery, so that it is probable that the Island, like so many other small places conquered by the Moors, was simply garrisoned and burdened with a tax.

7. In 1090, Count Roger the Norman with a handful of men, subjected the Islands to Sicily. The Sicilian domination lasted for four hundred years, when Norman, Angevine, Aragonese, and Castilian ruled in turn. During this time, Malta had Sicilian Governors and laws, but there is no record of any extensive Sicilian immigration, and the persistence of the old semitic names in the parish registers, instituted at this period, stands as further evidence that no great ethnographic changes occurred.

8. The connexion with Sicily was broken in 1530, when Charles V. of Spain ceded Malta to the Knights of St. John of Jerusalem, who held it until the beginning of the 19th century. For the first time the Islands were ruled from within, and the Maltese had a chance of throwing their luck in with that of their sovereigns. Their loyalty was put to a severe test on several

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occasions, the most notable being the great siege of 1565, when the Order of St. John, under Grand Master Jean de la Valette, resisted the attacks of the land and sea forces of Solyman the Magnificent. It was after this great feat of arms that the city of Valletta was built, strong enough to defy the Turkish attacks threatened yearly by the Sultan, who could not accept defeat at the hands of an Order of Christian Knights. It was not Solyman, however, but time and the French Revolution that caused the Order to decay and crumble down to dust.

9. Napoleon Bonaparte invested the Island on his way to Egypt, having prepared the ground by intrigue and revolutionary propaganda, and, on 12th July, 1798, Ferdinand de Hompesch, the last Grand Master in Malta, capitulated without any resistance.

10. The French installed themselves as masters of the Islands, but their interference with Maltese laws and customs brought about a sharp reaction, and the natives drove the French troops within the fortified towns and, with the help of the British fleet, held them closely blockaded for two years, after which the French, reduced to extremities, surrendered to the British. A period of uncertainty ensued when the French tried to reinstate the Knights against the wish of the Maltese. The treaty of Amiens, however, was put aside by the recommencement of the War between Great Britain and France, at the end of which the treaty of Paris of 1814 was signed, by which the Maltese Islands were annexed to the British Crown.

GOVERNMENT.

11. Under the terms of Royal Letters Patent issued in 1893 the Governor was assisted in the administration by two Councils. One styled the Council of Government, consisted of ten Official Members, heads of the principal departments, and eight members elected by a limited constituency, the islands being divided for this purpose into eight districts, each of which returned one member. There was also an Executive Council composed of the official members of the Council of Government, with the addition of two of the Elected Members of that Council, proposed by the Governor and appointed by the Secretary of State. For several years petitions were put forward by the Elected members of the Council for a revision of the terms of the Letters Patent and the grant of a Constitution which would provide for responsible government on a democratic basis. The question engaged the attention of His Majesty's Government, and a project for the establishment of a responsible government was framed and put forward for consideration early in the year 1920. A decision was reached on the subject by His Majesty's Government early in 1921, and shortly after the close of the year now under review, viz., on the 14th of April, 1921, Royal Letters Patent were issued embodying the terms of a New Constitution, and providing for its coming into force when proclaimed in Malta by the

Governor. The necessary preliminary arrangements being made, the new Constitution came into effect on the 16th of May, 1921. The principal features of the Constitution are as follows:—

The Legislature consists of two Houses—the Senate, and the Legislative Assembly. The Senate is composed of seventeen members, ten of whom are "Special Members" representing the Clergy, the Nobility, the Graduates, the Chamber of Commerce and the Trade Union Council, the other seven being elected by a special electorate composed of male British subjects over 21 years of age who are able to read and write, and who either pay £20 a year in rent or are in possession of £20 a year from real property in Malta, or other capital. The Legislative Assembly consists of 32 members, returned in groups of four by each of the eight electoral districts into which the Island is divided. Any male British subject who is over 21 years of age, and who either can read or write, or is in receipt of an income of £5 a year in rent may vote in a constituency. No person on full pay in the Navy, Army, and Air Force, maintained out of Imperial funds, is entitled to the vote unless he has a legal domicile in Malta. The method of voting is that of Proportional Representation under the system of the single transferable vote.

12. The Maltese Legislature may not pass laws touching the public safety and defence of the Empire or the general interest of British subjects outside Malta. In addition to this general reservation, certain subjects are specifically withheld from its legislative competence.

13. The Governor is assisted by two Councils—an Executive Council consisting of such of the Ministers as he selects and a Nominated Council consisting of the Lieutenant-Governor and Legal Adviser (who are *ex-officio* members) and three Officers chosen from the Navy, Army, and Air Force. The Governor may summon these two Councils to sit together as the "Privy Council of Malta." When any legislative or administrative act is done or proposed which, in the Governor's opinion, affects a reserved matter, he may submit the consideration of it to a Joint Committee consisting of three members of the Nominated Council appointed by himself, and three members of the Executive Council appointed by the Head of the Ministry.

14. Full liberty of conscience and freedom of worship are guaranteed by the Constitution.

Distribution of Population, Social Conditions, &c.

15. Most of the trade and business of Malta is centred round the two principal Harbours. The Grand Harbour, which is protected by a breakwater, provides anchorage for the largest ships, and on its shores are situated the large Naval Establishments of His Majesty's Dockyard, the Custom House with bonded and

other stores, and various merchant warehouses. The Marsamuscetto Harbour, which adjoins it, has not been equally developed, but it is largely used by His Majesty's Navy as a base for destroyers, and also provides berths for several ocean liners. The Lazzaretto Creek in this harbour is used as a quarantine station for ships, the Segregation Hospital and quarantine buildings being situated on the adjoining island of Manel.

16. Beside these harbours stand the fortified towns, Valletta, Floriana, and what are known as the Three Cities, Vittoriosa, Senglea, and Cospicua or Burmola. Valletta, the capital, was founded in 1566 after the great siege by Grand Master La Valette and became the headquarters of the Knights of St. John, replacing the old capital Citta Notabile. To the Knights is owed the construction of the Palace, the numerous Auberges of the various nations represented in the Order, and the majestic Cathedral of St. John.

17. About one-fourth of the entire population of the Island is congregated in these towns, while nearly one-third reside in the casals or villages in the vicinity which constitute the suburban area. Apart from the Naval Dockyard, there are no large industries. Cigarette manufacture gives employment to a considerable number of people, and a large number are engaged in trade. The majority, however, are unskilled labourers, for whom the problem of finding a livelihood presents a constant difficulty.

18. The remaining five-twelfths of the population are distributed in numerous casals throughout the Island and find their occupation in agriculture, which constitutes the principal industry of both Islands. Agricultural holdings are for the most part small, and the crops produced are designed for local consumption. All the land suitable for farming is closely cultivated; a good deal of wheat and barley is grown, and there is a fair production of wine.

19. The principal cottage industry is weaving, cloth being manufactured from locally-grown cotton, supplemented by imported Egyptian cotton, which is used exclusively for clothing. The staple food of the Islands is bread, and for this it depends largely upon importation, the wheat produced in a year being sufficient only to supply requirements for about three months. The price of wheat and flour ruled high during the year under review, and, although a substantial subsidy was granted by Government, the cost of the loaf remained on the average about twice that usual before the War. The reduction of Naval and Military Establishments and the general stagnation of trade resulted in the closing of many avenues for employment, and want and distress have been prevalent throughout the Island for the past two years. In Malta, where so large a proportion of the population depends for its existence on occupation or employment, which under the most favourable circumstances brings but an insignificant remuneration, any increase in the cost of necessities must always be severely felt.

20. The population, which is now almost a quarter of a million, exceeds the number that can, under existing industrial conditions, find an adequate livelihood within the islands, and emigration on an extensive scale is essential. A department has been organized to deal with this question. Industrious, thrifty, and religious, the Maltese make excellent colonists.

Vital Statistics.

21. The civil population on 1st April, 1921, was 213,024.

22. The number of births in the last two years was as follows :—

	1919-20.	1920-21.
Males	3,525	4,142
Females ..	3,262	3,671
Total ..	6,787	7,813

23. The birth-rate for the year was 31·98 per mille as compared with 31·69 per mille in the previous year. The average birth-rate for the past ten years was 31·22 per mille.

24. The number of deaths was as follows :—

	1919-20.	1920-21.
Males	2,340	2,342
Females	2,246	2,242
Total ..	4,586	4,584

25. The death-rate in 1920-21 was 21·51 per mille, as against 20·39 in 1919-20, while the average death-rate for the past decade was 22·75 per mille.

26. The death-rate among children under twelve months was 224·11 per 1,000 births, as against 220·42 in the previous year. The death-rate of children under five years was 90·82 per 1,000 of the population at that age as compared with 84·90 per 1,000 in the previous year. There were 1,637 marriages, as compared with 2,038 in the previous twelve months.

27. During the period under review there was a subsidence of influenza ; there was, however, an epidemic rise in the incidence of scarlet fever, characterised by an unusual proportion of very mild abortive attacks. The mortality at ages 0–10 from acute nephritis rose to 52 from 15 in the previous twelve months. It is noteworthy that concurrently with the progress of scarlatina, there was a marked increase in notified cases of erysipelas and of child-bed infections.

28. Another feature of the medical history of the year was a sharp outbreak of tonsilitis amongst the adult population in the towns and immediate suburbs of Malta. According to the intensity and depth attained by the inflammatory process, the local symptoms were those of simple catarrhal erythema with

lacunar or more extensive patches of whitish or dirty-looking exudation, with or without necrosis and ulceration of the mucosa and formation of intratonsillary abscess. The disease was more protracted and the functional symptoms more severe in persons with chronic enlargement of the tonsils and of the pharyngeal lymphatic tissue. No deaths were registered except in a case in which septicœmic symptoms supervened.

29. Nine cases of encephalitis lethargica were reported; two were very mild attacks; three cases were attended with fatal results.

Emigration.

30. The number of emigrants who left Malta or Gozo during the period from the 1st April, 1920, to the 31st March, 1921, was 6,186, bringing the total number of emigrants (from the 11th November, 1918) up to 11,787. Of these 3,838 returned, and, in a certain number of cases, went back to the country to which they had originally proceeded.

31. The flow of emigration was mainly to the United States of America, and the number of men, women, and children who left for that country during the period under review was 2,768. The crisis which overtook the American labour market and the new Immigration Restriction law have practically arrested emigration to the States.

32. The emigrants to Australia during the year were 278, principally men of the farming class, selected for fine physique, and equipped with a colloquial knowledge of English.

33. Although scant encouragement is given to immigrants into Canada, the number who proceeded thither during the period under review was 125.

34. Other countries, such as the United Kingdom, France, Egypt, and the Barbary States, attracted 3,015 individuals from the two Islands, but present conditions in those countries are not favourable for permanent settlement, and most of the emigrants returned home after a brief interval.

35. No emigrants are allowed to leave these Islands unless they fulfil all the requirements of the Immigration Laws of the country to which they desire to proceed.

Financial.

36. The revenue of the year 1920–21, inclusive of the Imperial Grant of £250,000, amounted to £1,063,742, and the expenditure to £1,060,664, including £238,918 paid for Bread Subsidy, leaving a balance in favour of revenue of £3,078, which, added to the accumulated balance remaining on the 31st March, 1920, viz.: £61,772, leaves the excess of assets over liabilities on the 31st March, 1921, at £64,850.

37. The gross revenue and expenditure for the last five years are as follows :—

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Surplus or Deficit of Revenue over Expenditure.
	£	£	£
1916–17 ..	460,165	462,469	— 2,304
1917–18 ..	470,976	484,726	—13,750
1918–19 ..	615,225	601,033	+14,192
1919–20 ..	650,489	632,233	+18,256
1920–21 ..	1,063,742*	1,060,664†	+ 3,078

Revenue.

38. The revenue for 1920–21, exclusive of the Imperial Grant of £250,000, shows an increase over that of 1919–20 of £163,254.

Expenditure.

39. The total expenditure exclusive of the amount paid for Bread Subsidy was £821,746, showing an increase, as compared with that for 1919–20, of £189,513.

40. The assets and liabilities of the Government at the close of the year, and at the close of 1919–20 were as follows :—

Year.	Assets.	Liabilities.	Surplus.
	£	£	£
1919–20 ..	1,343,446	1,281,674	61,772
1920–21 ..	1,148,922	1,084,072	64,850
Decrease ..	£194,524	£197,602	—
Increase ..	—	—	£3,078

41. The value of British and Colonial Securities held by Government on General Account and on account of the Savings Bank, calculated at the market prices on the 31st March, 1921, shows a depreciation of £215,398. The Depreciation Fund stands at £147,211.

Currency in Circulation.

42. The amount of British Treasury paper currency notes in circulation on 31st March, 1921, was roughly estimated at £700,000.

43. The amount of British gold, silver, and bronze coins in circulation cannot be ascertained.

Savings Bank.

44. The number of depositors in the Savings Bank on 31st March, 1921, was 8,357, and the amount standing to their credit,

* Including the Imperial grant of £250,000.
† Including £238,918 paid for Bread Subsidy.

including deposits on account of the Prize Court, was £770,385, of which £730,949 was invested in British and Colonial securities and in London Banks.

45. The deposits made during the year amounted to £317,250, and the withdrawals to £347,583, as against £295,693 and £240,342 respectively in 1919–20.

46. The revenue derived from interest on invested funds, unappropriated interest, and sale of passbooks, was £29,729, whilst the expenses of management and interest to depositors amounted to £15,551, leaving a net profit of £14,178.

BANKS.

47. There are now five banks in the island—a branch of the Anglo-Egyptian Bank Ltd., a branch of the Banco di Roma, the Anglo-Maltese Bank, the Bank of Malta, and a branch of the Crédit Foncier d'Algérie et de Tunisie.

48. As there is no law compelling banks to publish their balance sheets, it is impossible to ascertain the amount of business done by each bank.

49. There is also a Government Savings Bank, which accepts deposits from 1s. upwards, and pays interest at the rate of 2 per cent. on amounts of £500 or less.

TRADE.

50. The total value of the imports of merchandise, including the value of goods entered by parcel post and excluding bullion and goods imported for transhipment, was £5,857,325, as compared with £4,261,745 in 1919-20, showing an increase of £1,595,580.

IMPORTS.

51. The value of imports during the year was £2,523,963, which is above the average for the past three years.

EXPORTS.

52. The value of exports amounted to £1,602,294, as against £918,588 in 1919–20, an increase of £683,706; food, drink, and tobacco account for £246,648 of the total, raw materials for £1,187,963, manufactured articles for £103,444, and miscellaneous exports for the remainder.

SHIPPING.

53. The number of British steamers which called at Malta during the year 1920 was 492 (tonnage 1,195,266), foreign steamers 544 (tonnage 886,077).

54. The orders placed abroad were limited in expectation of a fall in prices.

55. The present situation and immediate prospects may be summarised as follows :—

Foodstuffs.—The consumption was normal, as far as staple commodities were concerned, but owing to fluctuations in the market, especially as regards sugar, flour, coffee and rice, considerable stocks were not kept, and imports were limited to hand-to-mouth requirements.

Textiles.—The importation of textiles in general began to decline towards the end of 1919, and the decrease was acute throughout the year 1920. There has been, however, an improvement since the beginning of 1921.

Hardware and Materials for the Building Trade.—The trade in these goods was much below the normal.

Shipping.—Although the shipping trade, as compared with that of the previous year, showed slight recovery, the figures were far below those of pre-war times.

AGRICULTURE.

56. The total area of land under cultivation was 42,891 acres, as against 42,860 in the previous year, while the area of uncultivated land was estimated at 3,800 acres, as against 3,830 in 1919–20.

57. At the end of the year the number of holdings was estimated at 11,100, the same as in 1919–20. The land is parcelled out into small holdings of an average extent of 3·86 acres each. The owners, or occupiers, of such small holdings must necessarily supplement their slender earnings by some other trade. Holdings of 30 acres and upwards are very few. Where it is not cultivated by the owner the land is generally granted on short leases for four years, and this system is a bar to important improvements, as few tenants care to expend money on improvements which they may have no chance to exploit during tenure of short duration. However, renewals of lease to the same holder are frequent, and the land is sometimes also granted on long lease, with a view to induce the cultivator to spend money on permanent and extensive improvements.

58. The present price of unirrigated land of fairly good quality is about £180 per acre. Specially good unirrigated land may fetch as much as £240 per acre. The price of irrigated land varies from £350 to £450 per acre according to quality.

59. The principal agricultural products were wheat, barley, " mischiato " (a mixture of both), forages, potatoes, onions, beans and vegetables. The total area under cereals was 18,297 acres, as compared with 20,498 acres in 1919–20. The total yield was :— Wheat, 38,237 quarters ; barley, 20,075 quarters ; and " mischiato," 11,955 quarters.

60. The area under beans (broad beans) was 1,868 acres, against 2,295 acres in 1919–20, and the total yield was 4,562 quarters, as compared with 4,192 quarters in the previous year.

The area planted with potatoes was 2,350 acres, as against 2,752 acres in 1919–20, and the total yield was 14,850 tons, as compared with 16,940 tons in 1919–20. The quantity of imported potatoes which were planted during 1920–21 was 1,401 tons

61. The area on which onions were grown was 699 acres, a decrease of 221 acres as compared with the previous year. The yield amounted to 1,438 tons, or 1,401 tons less than in 1919–20.

62. Cummin was grown on 184 acres, and the produce was estimated at 373 cwt.

63. The total quantity of citrus fruits gathered is estimated at 75,080 dozen, as compared with 141,645 in 1919–20. This great fall in production was due mainly to unfavourable weather at the close of December, 1919, and in the following spring. The products of local orange groves were supplemented by fruit from Sicily, about 664,847 dozen oranges having been imported.

64. Other fruit trees are planted on 2,514 acres of land, and the total production has been estimated at 61,716 cwt., including 43,322 cwt. of grapes.

65. The prolonged drought in the winter 1919–20 considerably affected the production of fruit in general and of grapes in particular, the consequence being that the quantity of wine produced amounted to only 31,200 barili (or 280,800 Imperial gallons).

66. New centres of infection of Phylloxera were detected in both Islands. In order to avoid delay in the reconstitution of the vineyards which had suffered from this pest, 130,000 rootlings of American vines suitable for the soil and climate of Malta, including 2,100 grafted plants, were imported from Italy at a cost of £3,329. These were distributed free of charge amongst growers, together with a small quantity of rootlings and cuttings of American Vines obtained from the American Vine Nurseries established at the close of last year.

67. Forage was grown on 13,554 acres, as against 10,569 acres in the previous year. The production, estimated at 337,065 "some," or loads of ten bundles each, was one of the best on record.

68. The area under vegetables was 1,768 acres, and the production was estimated at 114,655 cwt. This figure includes both dry-farmed vegetables and vegetables grown on irrigated land. Dry-farming, however, had to contend with exceptional difficulties, owing to the excessively dry condition of the soil and subsoil during the spring and summer.

69. The year may be described as a good one for all field crops which commenced to develop with the autumnal rains in October, and had, therefore, the advantage of the very satisfactory rainfall throughout the winter and spring; but it was a bad one for all arboricultural crops maturing after April, 1920, and for all dry-farmed crops throughout the spring and summer of that year, owing to the shortage of rain in the preceding season. This scarcity of rain was favourable to the development of insect-life,

Phylloxera being particularly virulent throughout the two seasons. On the other hand, the prolonged wet weather of last winter and spring, with its long spells of moist southerly winds, caused serious outbreaks of cryptogamic diseases. Potato-blight was rife from March to May, and the early spring crop was partly destroyed. Since the outbreak of 1915, the downy mildew of the vine had appeared only in a sporadic form, but during the year atmospheric conditions caused a virulent outbreak, which proved very injurious to the vineyards of both islands.

Fisheries.

70. The fishing industry in these islands is almost wholly dependent on inshore fishing: the craft in use consisting of 910 boats, being unsuitable for deep-sea fishing. The total number of fishermen is about 3,500. Owing to the wholesale destruction of immature fish, the industry has suffered considerably during recent years, but energetic steps have now been taken by the Government to avert this evil. The use of explosives for catching fish became a common practice after the construction of the breakwaters, but owing to police action the practice has practically been stopped. Regulations issued by the Government for the control of fisheries have also had beneficial results. This has been observed especially in the case of mature sardines, which were scarce during the last eighteen years, but are now plentiful.

71. Approximately 15,200 cwt. of fish were taken during the year, the total price fetched being about £77,700. The principal species were dogfish, angel-fish, rays, conger, murrey, forkbeards, grey mullets, streaked-smare, dentex, pandora, Egyptian sargo, bogue, box salpa, black-tailed bream, red mullets, stone-basse, dusky perch, Spanish mackerel, tunny fish, pilot fish, *Seriola dumerili*, horse mackerel and corephene.

Public Instruction.

University.

72. The average number of students attending the University in 1920–21 was 130, one more than in 1919–20.

73. The cost of the University, including the Botanic Gardens, was £8,896 and the revenue £1,609; the average cost per student was £50 8*s*. 5*d*., as compared with £30 12*s*. 10*d*. in the previous year. The increase is due to the fact that the salaries of the Teaching Staff have been increased.

74. In virtue of a decision arrived at by the Special Board of Trustees of the Rhodes' Scholarships, a Rhodes' Scholarship of £300 a year at the University of Oxford is awarded every three years to a student of the University of Malta.

75. A scholarship known as the "Aubrey Causton Strachan Scholarship" was founded by Mrs. Strachan in memory of her son, Lieutenant Strachan, who died in the War.

76. Representatives were sent by the Malta University to the Congress of the Universities of the Empire held under the auspices of the home Universities.

77. The Statute of the University and the regulations were revised during the year.

Secondary Schools.

78. There are three Government Secondary Schools, viz.:—The Lyceum for Boys, the Secondary School for Girls in Valletta, and the Secondary School for Boys in Gozo.

79. The number on the rolls in the Lyceum Day School was 307, while the evening classes in marine and electrical engineering were attended by 198 students, and the commercial evening classes by 274 (boys and girls).

80. The Secondary School for Girls was attended by 226 students, as against 186 in the previous year.

81. There were 44 pupils in regular attendance at the Secondary School for Boys in Gozo.

The average cost of each student was—

Lyceum	£4 13*s.* 6*d.*
Secondary School, Malta	£3 11*s.* 7*d.*
Secondary School, Gozo..	£7 19*s.* 2*d.*

82. At the Lyceum entrance examination held on 20th September, 1920, 129 candidates were presented, of whom 51 passed a competitive test.

83. Twenty Lyceum scholarships were awarded to pupils coming from other schools.

84. The Lyceum presented 23 candidates for the Oxford Local Examinations in July, 1920; 22 passed, 5 with Honours.

85. Other examinations at which Lyceum students compete are those of the London Chamber of Commerce and of the City and Guilds of London Institute.

86. Commercial evening classes in the Lyceum (comprising classes in book-keeping, commerce, shorthand and typewriting, French and practical mathematics) were attended on an average by 274 students, of whom 90 were girls.

Elementary Schools.

87. During the scholastic year, from 15th September, 1919, to 14th September, 1920, the number of Government day schools was 102, viz.:—43 boys' schools (34 in Malta, 9 in Gozo) and 16 infant schools (15 in Malta and 1 in Gozo). The girls' schools generally included infant divisions.

88. The daily average number of children on the registers was 19,595 (10,481 boys and 9,114 girls) and the average attendance 16,407 (8,874 boys and 7,533 girls). The percentage of the average attendance to the average number on the registers was 84·2. The figures for the previous year were 20,291, 16,329 and 80·4 respectively.

89. The number of new admissions during the year was 2,146 (1,100 boys and 1,046 girls), and the number of withdrawals 4,359 (2,088 boys and 2,271 girls).

90. Continuation classes for boys preparing for secondary education, marine and electric engineering courses, and Dockyard examinations, were held in fourteen centres, and were attended by 297 students, with an average attendance of 186.

91. There were 37 night schools (28 in Malta and 9 in Gozo) with a daily average enrolment of 1,531 and an average attendance of 849. The corresponding figures for the previous year were 1,480 and 705.

92. The local training courses were attended by 41 male students and 221 students of the other sex, as compared with 37 and 177 respectively in 1919–20.

93. The total expenditure on elementary education during the financial year 1920–21 was £55,961, as compared with £45,374 in 1919–20.

94. Calculated on the average number of scholars on the registers, the average annual cost per head was £2 12*s.* 11*d.* and calculated on the average attendance £3 4*s.* 10*d.*

Charitable Institutions.

95. The Charitable Institutions maintained by the Government are six Hospitals, an Orphanage, a Lunatic Asylum, a Poor House, and an Industrial School, 28 Government Dispensaries, an establishment where money is advanced with certain limitations on pledges, and an Office for assaying, stamping and valuing manufactured jewellery. Other branches of the charitable service are pecuniary out-door relief, gratuitous midwifery assistance, and burials in necessitous cases. Government subsidies are also granted to certain charitable institutions run by private bodies or individuals.

96. The cost of Government charities for the past ten years has been gradually increasing. In 1920–21 it amounted to £136,935, as against £66,355 in 1911–12 and £119,796 in 1919–20.

97. The cost of living reached during the year the highest figure yet recorded in Malta. The Statistics of the "Monte di Pieta," which are considered to be a reliable index of the financial condition of the country, show that the sum of £57,469 was advanced on 31,509 pledges in 1920–21, as against £39,182 advanced on 22,553 pledges in 1919–20.

98. *Connaught Hospital.*—The number of patients who received treatment for Pulmonary Tuberculosis at this Hospital was 239, of whom 51 were discharged at their own request, 16 as cured, 7 as "improved," while those that died amounted to 85, leaving 80 in hospital on 31st March, 1921. Tuberculin is used in the diagnosis and treatment of the disease, but the percentage of cures is not high because, as a rule, the disease

is far advanced when patients seek admission to this Hospital. Of the 161 cases admitted, 8 were in the first stage, 12 in the second and third stage, and 141 in the last stage of the disease.

99. *Leper Hospital.*—Compulsory segregation of lepers is enforced under the existing law, the sexes being kept separate. Patients that do not show signs of progress of the disease clinically and give constant negative bacteriological results are discharged, subject to control and periodical examination by the Leprosy Board.

100. Compulsory segregation has been general since 1912. The highest number of lepers recorded was 112 in 1917, since when there has been a gradual decrease. On the 31st March, 1921, the number of lepers was 81, 49 males and 32 females. Reckoning on these figures, the incidence of leprosy is 35 to 100,000.

101. Injections of Collaboise Chaulmoogra were for some time used on a large scale, but the results were not satisfactory. These have been superseded during the year by Sir Leonard Rogers' injections of Sodium Morrhaute prepared from cod liver oil. Forty-seven patients have been so treated, and, after some months, improvement has in a few cases been observed in the anæsthetic, mixed, and tubercular types. Marked improvement has been observed in some cases, and in a few instances hopes are entertained of a permanent cure.

102. *Lunatic Asylum.*—The average number of patients in this Asylum was 792, as against 773 in the previous year.

103. The rate of insanity in these islands was 32·9 per 10,000 on 1st April, 1921. This rate is slightly higher than the ratio of reported lunatics, idiots, and persons of unsound mind to the population in England and Wales on 1st January, 1921, which is 31·14 per 10,000.

104. The Asylum death-rate was 5·1 per cent. for 1919-20, and 6·4 per cent. for 1920–21 on daily average number of inmates. Both these rates compare favourably with the death-rate in English asylums, which, according to latest data available, was 12·55 per cent. in 1919.

105. The primary causes of death at the Asylum during the year 1920–21 were as follows :—

106. Tuberculosis (including phthisis), 2; senility and arterial sclerosis, 1; organic heart disease, 17; epilepsy, 9; renal disease, 2; organic brain disease, 3; and other causes (including cancer), 17.

107. It is gratifying to record the absence of asylum dysentery, general paralysis, pneumonia, influenza, and enteric, and there were two cases only of tubercle of lungs. It is also to be noted that there were no cases of erysipelas and scabies, and one case only of undulant fever during the year.

Postal and Telephone Services.

108. The number of letters, postcards, and printed matter dealt with was 7,532,209, as compared with 9,268,331 in the

previous year. Registered letters numbered 215,200, as against 182,689; 71,523 parcels were received and despatched, while the number in the previous year was 74,955.

109. The total number of Money Orders issued and paid was 14,234, of the value of £131,730, as against 18,402 and £183,082 respectively in 1919–20. In addition, Postal Orders to the value of £25,894 were issued and paid as compared with £42,754 in the previous twelve months.

110. The telephone service is conducted by Naval, Military, and Civil exchanges, separately controlled and administered. The Civil exchange has 480 subscribers and 750 miles of aerial telephone wire.

CLIMATE.

111. The highest temperature in the shade was 96·5 on the 24th July, and the lowest 40·0 on 27th January. The mean temperature for the year was 66·0, as compared with 66·6 in the corresponding period last year.

112. The mean temperature for the summer months of June, July, August and September was 77·7; in the same months of 1919 it was 76·2. The mean temperature for the winter months of January, February and March was 54·80, or 0·8 degrees higher than that of the corresponding months of the preceding year.

113. The total rainfall was 23·09 inches, or 7·79 inches more than that of 1920–21.

RAILWAY.

114. The gross revenue of the Railway during 1920–21 was £12,276, as against £15,038 in 1919–20. The expenditure was £20,833, in addition to which £308 was expended on the Railway Technical School, where the average number of apprentices under training was 28. Apprentices are employed in the Technical School on general engineering, repairing, and refitting work of the rolling stock. During the War many young men who were trained in the Malta Railway Works found lucrative employment abroad, or in His Majesty's Dockyard, or on board His Majesty's Ships. Several secured the Chief and Second Engineers' Certificates in Marine Engineering issued by the Board of Trade.

LEGISLATION.

115. Eighteen Ordinances were promulgated during the year 1920–21, the more important being :—

(i) *The Exportation and Importation Restriction Ordinance* (Ordinance No. VIII. of 1920), which amends Article 37 of Ordinance No. VI. of 1840, concerning the levying and collection of Customs duties, and confers upon the Governor in Council the right of prohibiting, restricting or otherwise

regulating exports from and imports into these islands, conditionally or unconditionally, for a period of three years following the termination of the War.

(ii) *The Encouragement of New Industries Ordinance*, 1920 (Ordinance No. IX. of 1920) legalizes the grant of temporary monopolies in the case of certain new industries; defines new industries as those relating to any process or enterprise of production, manufacture, improvement or importation of any article, commodity or service initiated in these islands for the first time; and confers upon the Governor the power to grant to British subjects or firms the exclusive right for a period not exceeding seven years to establish and carry on a new industry.

(iii) *The Census Ordinance*, 1920 (Ordinance No. X. of 1920) providing for the taking of the Census of the population of these islands during 1921.

(iv) *The Jewellers' Ordinance*, 1920 (Ordinance No. XII. of 1920) provides for the protection of the local jewellery industry against unfair foreign competition, and for the protection of purchasers of genuine gold and silver articles locally manufactured. Five standards of gold, ranging from 22 to 9 carats, and four standards of silver, from 959 to 800 millims, are prescribed.

(v) *The Import Duties Revision Ordinance*, 1920 (Ordinance No. XIV. of 1920) increases the specific and *ad valorem* duties and establishes the principle of assessing duties on goods imported on their invoice value when expressed in foreign coinage, at the *current* and not the *fixed* rate of exchange for sterling money.

(vi) *The Opium (Amendment) Ordinance*, 1921 (Ordinance No. 1 of 1921) amends the Opium Ordinance, 1913, which controls the importation of opium, morphine, cocaine and kindred drugs by amplifying the definition of the expression "similar drugs" in the original Ordinance so as to include any such drug of whatever kind, which, if improperly used, is likely to be productive of the ill effects of morphine or cocaine.

Waterworks.

116. 699,629,000 gallons of water were supplied in 1920–21, as against 765,198,000 in the previous year. The revenue derived from water supplied, introduction of house services, and rent of meters was £23,930, as compared with £26,037 in 1919–20.

Electric Lighting.

117. The revenue derived from the electric lighting installation was £50,364, as compared with £34,925 in 1919–20. The capital on 31st March, 1921, was £56,226, and the profit on the year's working, after deducting interest and depreciation, was £2,885, or 5 per cent.

118. The total number of units generated (exclusive of Central Station units) was 1,868,489, as compared with 1,794,559 units generated in 1919-20.

ANTIQUITIES.

119. No remarkable archæological discoveries were made during the year, but important sites were investigated with encouraging results. The ground round the "Roman Villa" at Rabat was explored and a series of rooms, passages, and water conduits was discovered. No important mosaic floors were met with, but fragments of rock and débris of interesting Roman pottery were collected. The excavations demonstrate the previous existence of a spring of water which flowed from a fissure in the rock close to the Villa, and that this water was conducted in elaborate channels and galleries to feed cisterns and fountains, and probably was also utilized for the baths of the Villa.

120. The excavations also made it evident that the "Roman Villa" was already a ruin in the tenth century, as a number of Saracenic graves were found built over and in the foundation-layers of the walls. Skulls and bones, in excellent preservation, were removed from these graves and taken to the School of Anatomy for anthropological examination.

I have, &c.

PLUMER, F.M.,
Governor.

The Right Honourable
WINSTON S. CHURCHILL, M.P.